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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Keystone XL Oil Pipeline Project

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PUBLIC COMMENT MEETINGS

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Monday, September 26, 2011

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Kansas Expo Center

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Expo Centre Drive

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Topeka, Kansas 66612

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The Keystone XL Public Comment Meeting convened

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at 12 o'clock noon before a Panel:

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TERESA HOBGOOD, U.S. Department of State,

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presiding officer.

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MICHAEL STEWART, US Department of State,

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presiding officer.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MS. HOBGOOD: Good afternoon, everyone.

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We're about to get started. You might want to take

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your seats.

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Hello and good afternoon. My name is

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Teresa Hobgood, and I am from the U.S. Department of

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State in Washington, D.C. My colleague, Michael

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Stewart and I are here today to listen to your

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comments regarding the national interest

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determination for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

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On behalf of the Department of State, we

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would like to thank the people of Kansas for joining

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us at this public meeting in Topeka. We recognize

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that this is an important issue, and value your

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input. We also would like to thank the Kansas Expo

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Centre for agreeing to host this meeting.

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The purpose of this meeting is for you,

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members of the public, whether you are a farmer or

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scientist, to express your views whether issuing a

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Presidential Permit for the proposed Keystone

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pipeline is in the national interest. To focus all

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of our time and attention on your comments, we will

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1 not be answering questions at this or other public
2 meetings that are taking place in South Dakota,
3 Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington,
4 D.C.

5 Before we begin, we would like to describe
6 the Department of State's role in the Presidential
7 Permitting process and lay out the ground rules for
8 participating in the meeting.

9 In September of 2008, TransCanada Keystone
10 Pipeline, LP filed an application for a Presidential
11 Permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.
12 Executive Order 1337, signed on April 30, 2004,
13 delegates to the Department of State the authority to
14 issue a Presidential Permit for facilities such as
15 the Keystone XL pipeline that cross the U.S. border.

16 In considering a permit, the Department of
17 State determines whether allowing the border crossing
18 is in the U.S.' national interest, taking into
19 account environmental and safety issues as well as
20 energy security, foreign policy, and social and
21 economic concerns.

22 In addition to the Executive Order, the

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1 Department determined, because of the importance of
2 the proposed pipeline, that it should evaluate the
3 pipeline's possible environmental and safety impacts,
4 consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act
5 or NEPA.

6 As a consequence, the State Department
7 prepared an environmental impact statement or EIS
8 consistent with NEPA to evaluate the proposed
9 pipeline's potential environmental and safety
10 impacts. In preparing the EIS over the past two and
11 a half years, we have conducted some 41 public
12 meetings along the pipeline route, and in Washington,
13 D.C. to gather public comments in developing the
14 scope and draft of the EIS.

15 On August 26th we released the final EIS,
16 which addresses the more than 250,000 comments from
17 the public comment period. The Final EIS is just one
18 factor considered in the review process. It does not
19 represent a final decision on the permit application.

20 Now as we move into the national interest
21 determination phase, the Department of State is
22 compiling additional information to determine if the

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1 proposed Keystone XL pipeline is in the national
2 interest and decide whether to grant or deny the
3 permit.

4 Now turning to the ground rules. We hope
5 to have the opportunity to listen to everyone who
6 wishes to speak; and in order to allow the maximum
7 amount of participation, we ask you to limit your
8 comments to no more than three to five minutes. The
9 amount of time you will be allowed to comment will
10 depend on the number of people who have signed up to
11 share their points of view on the national interest
12 determination.

13 Given the strong interest in this issue,
14 it may not be possible for everyone who would like to
15 speak to do so. If you do not have that opportunity,
16 if you have your comments written down you can turn
17 them in today; you can provide your written comments
18 on the back of the sheet of paper handed to you
19 before you entered the room -- and I see many of you
20 have that piece of paper in your hand. And you can
21 also submit written comments via mail, fax, email or
22 on line.

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1 The handout you received provides all of
2 the instructions you need for the submission of
3 written comments. Written comments will be accepted
4 through October 9, 2011.

5 Now our first speakers will be your
6 elected representatives. We're honored to have
7 Governor Sam Brownback with us; we also have
8 representatives Arlen Siegfried, Vern Swanson, and
9 Forrest Knox with us as well.

10 Governor Brownback, you may have the
11 floor.

12 GOV. BROWNBACK: Thank you very much.

13 Welcome to Kansas. We're delighted to
14 have you here. We're not used to having the State
15 Department here, or some would say listening to us
16 either; but we appreciate you being out, we
17 appreciate your solicitation and comments and
18 appreciate you being here as well.

19 I'll be very brief on this. I support
20 this pipeline; I think this is an important security
21 interest of the United States; I have been at the
22 front end and the back end of this pipeline, I have

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1 been where the oil sands are developed and processed
2 in Canada; I've been at the oil refineries in Kansas
3 where they use the oil sands.

4 The idea of us being able to have that in
5 a pipeline, being able to have that oil source from a
6 friendly nation that's next door rather than shipping
7 oil from tankers halfway around the world in many
8 times unstable environments is a good thing for us.
9 It is a good thing for America and it's a good thing
10 for Kansas.

11 Construction of the line has gone well in
12 Kansas. There are certainly issues; you're going to
13 hear about it from different individuals today; but
14 overall it has gone quite well and it is a good
15 thing. Our refineries like the oil in Kansas. It's
16 general something they can buy at a cheaper price,
17 and provide then gasoline at lower prices for our
18 constituency.

19 And just finally on this point, I'm one
20 that supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy. I
21 think we've got to develop everything, but we need to
22 do it within the context, the United States or North

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1 America so we can have a stable atmosphere as much as
2 possible. I support biofuels, I support wind
3 development, and we've had a substantial expansion of
4 wind development in this State, which has been good
5 for us and good for the country.

6 But for the foreseeable future, we're
7 going to need oil. And here is place we can get it
8 reliably, safely, from a friendly neighbor at a price
9 competitive basis that's good for us and good for the
10 United States; that's why I support this pipeline.

11 Thank you for being here and joining us,
12 and we're delighted to have you.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 REP. SIEGFREID: Thank you. I'm
15 Representative Arlen Siegfroid from Olathe, Kansas,
16 and in addition to representing the 15th District of
17 the Kansas House, I'm also the House Majority Leader
18 of the Kansas House of Representatives.

19 And I appear before you today to humbly
20 express my support for your favorable review of the
21 Keystone XL pipeline project.

22 I appreciate the State Department's

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1 thoughtfulness in allowing for public input on
2 various issues regarding this project, and I
3 understand the unease from some of the opposition.
4 However, after reviewing the environmental impact
5 statement, I am confident of this project and believe
6 that the economic and security benefits associated
7 with the construction and completion of the Keystone
8 XL pipeline will last. Completion of the project
9 would have a direct and positive impact on Kansas.

10 Kansas is a vital link in the Keystone XL
11 project. In February of 2011, the Kansas portion of
12 the pipeline went from Steele City, Northeast to
13 Cushing, Oklahoma, and is operational. And during
14 the construction phase of the XL segment here in
15 Kansas, Kansas collected approximately \$3.6 million
16 in sales and use tax; an additional \$347 million was
17 spent in the State on land, pipeline construction and
18 pumping stations.

19 Nationally, the XL project has the
20 potential to strengthen our security through energy
21 independence while creating jobs nationwide. The
22 U.S. imports more than a majority of its crude oil,

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1 equaling about 9.2 million barrels a day. Almost 2
2 million of those come from Canada at this time.

3 However, should the XL pipeline be
4 completed in its entirety, crude oil imports from
5 Canada could equal 4 million barrels a day by 2020,
6 more than we currently import from the Persian Gulf.
7 In addition, increased investment in Canadian oil
8 sands develop will create over 500,000 new jobs in
9 the United States and can generate \$775 billion in
10 gross domestic product.

11 The United States must strengthen our
12 ability to produce our own oil. With the help of our
13 friends from Canada and through encouraging domestic
14 production, we can achieve this goal. Completion of
15 the Keystone XL pipeline is essential to national
16 security and energy security of the United States;
17 furthermore, new jobs and revenues provided by the
18 completion of this project are desperately sought by
19 the residents of Kansas and the rest of the nation.

20 Therefore, I respectfully request, upon
21 completion of the review period, the U.S. Department
22 of State move quickly to approve the completion of

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1 this project. Thank you.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 @ REP SWANSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 Much has been and will be said about the importance
5 of the XL portion of the Keystone pipeline project.

6 My remarks will be about Price Gregory, the
7 construction company hired by TransCanada to build
8 that portion of the pipeline that was built through
9 Clay and Dickinson Counties, of which I represent.

10 I think this company is indicative of the
11 type of company TransCanada is, by hiring outstanding
12 people to represent them. I want to share with you
13 just a few ways that Price Gregory was a good
14 neighbor to our area. The following points are just
15 a few examples of why I think so.

16 Buying locally is very important to small
17 towns like Clay Center, Wakefield, Chapman. One of
18 the first stories told was one of the workers coming
19 into a local beauty shop and asking for a haircut.
20 Now that may not mean much to people from larger
21 communities, but with a community like Clay Center, a
22 haircut is very important, because it means something

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1 was done locally; money was being spent in our
2 economy.

3 A hardware store asked my opinion of the
4 pipeline crew. After stating it, he said the man in
5 charge of buying supplies for the company had been in
6 and would be buying hardware supplies locally. That
7 meant quite a few sales to that particular business
8 owner.

9 Our local GoodYear tire store was given a
10 list of tires that would be needed during
11 construction, and asked to order them so that the
12 tires would be available easily and locally. Any
13 inventory not needed was purchased and taken with the
14 company when the construction project was finished.

15 The spouses of the construction workers
16 were busy with their own projects. They painted
17 playground equipment, built park benches, made civic
18 club presentations about the work they and the
19 construction crews were doing, and when needed, they
20 took the Clay County park supervisor to his needed
21 cancer treatments.

22 Please keep in mind that during

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1 construction, almost all of the pipeline workers
2 lived in our area. That meant groceries being sold,
3 movies being attended, meals being served in our
4 restaurants, and many other examples of their
5 contributing to our local economy. These are just a
6 few of the positives that the pipeline construction
7 company did for our area, the few months they were
8 there.

9 I would add that a Clay County
10 Commissioner has been quoted as saying that
11 TransCanada was very honest in their dealings with
12 Clay County. The construction was hard on the roads
13 and bridges, and both have been repaired to what they
14 were before the pipeline work began.

15 If the construction companies used during
16 the XL portion of this project are as good as what we
17 in our area experienced, the job will be done well.
18 Thank you for this opportunity to share with you
19 about the work done by TransCanada, and at least one
20 of their pipeline construction crews.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 @ REP KNOX: I appreciate being here;

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1 appreciate the opportunity to speak on this. My name
2 is Forrest Knox, I'm 13th District State
3 Representative from a rural district in Southeast
4 Kansas. I farm and ranch down there and have for 20
5 years, I also have a graduate degree in mechanical
6 engineering, and accordingly, I guess I'm Vice-Chair
7 of the Energy Committee in the Kansas House, and the
8 Environment Committee of the National Council of
9 State Legislators.

10 I want to talk to you today about balance.

11 And I believe this pipeline. I'm supportive of this
12 pipeline; I believe it shows a balanced approach to
13 several things. First, energy. I haven't found
14 anybody that's not supportive of renewable energy;
15 but the truth is, to meet the need today there's
16 nothing on the horizon in terms of renewable energies
17 that are going to meet that.

18 I'm supportive of nuclear energy. I think
19 there's a bright future for nuclear, too; but there's
20 a few problems that are being worked out in terms of
21 technology. That's a long term future, I believe.
22 And right now fossil fuels are fitting the bill;

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1 that's the bottom line. And technology is solving
2 supply issues, environmental issue, and economic
3 issues to do with fossil fuels; and they're the fuel
4 of the day and we need to support those.

5 In the environment, if we're going to
6 bring these mass amounts of crude oil into this
7 country, the safest way to do this is to transport it
8 by pipeline, by buried pipeline. It's better than
9 transporting it any other way, certainly better than
10 bringing it from halfway around the world in ocean
11 shipping.

12 Spills and accidents happen; we know that;
13 they always do. It's easily detected in a pipeline,
14 it's easily contained and it's easily cleaned up.
15 It's the safest way to transport oil.

16 Exposure to international threat. This
17 pipeline is bringing energy to our country, needed
18 energy. It's inside our borders, it's a fixed
19 location, it's not subject to unstable international
20 governments, it's within our control alone, and
21 that's extremely valuable.

22 And then the economy. Energy fuels our

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1 modern consumer. We need abundant local supply.
2 This opens up economic opportunities, it opens up
3 jobs in this country -- it opens up Kansas jobs, and
4 that's my particular interest.

5 In Kansas, we're down to three refineries.
6 We used to have a lot of refineries. This opens up
7 endless opportunities. For Kansas industry in
8 general, for perhaps future refineries; one of our
9 refineries has state-of-the-art technology to develop
10 fertilizer. It's good for general industry, it's
11 good for agricultural industry, which is of utmost
12 importance in this state. It's good for Kansans and
13 for jobs.

14 In terms of developing down the road, I'm
15 looking at lots of opportunities maybe to build new
16 refineries here -- we don't have hurricanes in
17 Kansas; we don't have offshore terrorist threats,
18 either. The Keystone pipeline opens up all kinds of
19 opportunities. I would encourage the issuance of the
20 Presidential Permit; and appreciate the opportunity
21 to speak to you today.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. I think we have

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1 three more elected officials in the room.

2 Representative Charlotte O'Hara, Representative Trent
3 LeDoux. I hope I did not mangle your last name, and
4 Senator Morris.

5 If the three of you could come up, please.
6 And before you start, I want to make just a couple
7 more remarks about the ground rules.

8 Speakers will make their remarks after the
9 elected officials on a first-come, first-serve basis.
10 And when your number is called, we ask you to come to
11 the microphone, state your name and your affiliation.
12 And if you have an even number, what we've tried to
13 do is to set it up so that if you have an even
14 number, if you can line up in the aisle on my left,
15 if you have an odd number if you can line up on the
16 aisle to my right, we'd really appreciate it.

17 In addition to that, we just want to
18 remind everyone that when you're speaking you will be
19 timed. Our goal is to provide, and I said earlier
20 five minutes -- our goal is to provide at least three
21 minutes to all speakers. A card will be displayed
22 when you have one minute remaining, and when your

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1 time is up. And we respectfully request that you
2 finish your comments in the allotted time.

3 And let me reiterate that Department of
4 State officials are here to listen. We will not be
5 engaging in a question and answer session. We
6 understand the strong views, and we ask in fairness
7 to everyone who chooses to speak that they be able to
8 do so without interruption.

9 All of your oral comments and written
10 comments will be considered as part of our record of
11 decision, and will be reviewed by the State
12 Department during the decision-making process. All
13 comments made here will be transcribed by a court
14 reporter.

15 We plan on taking a break at 3:30 p.m. and
16 we will resume the public meeting at 4 o'clock p.m.

17 Again, we want to stress that the State
18 Department has not made a decision on the matter.
19 Thank you for your interest and for coming to the
20 meeting.

21 Now, is Representative Charlotte O'Hara --
22 if you can come to the microphone, Thank you.

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1 @ REP O'HARA: Thank you. I stand in
2 support of this project; however, there is one issue
3 here in Kansas that I think does need to be brought
4 to attention, is that the portion of the pipeline
5 that currently runs through Kansas, that has a ten
6 year, 100 percent tax abatement, property tax
7 abatement on that; which in my estimation is rather
8 problematic.

9 Obviously I am a very strong supporter of
10 private property rights and capitalism, but when you
11 start playing into crony capitalism and giving these
12 types of tax abatements, it becomes a problem. And
13 so I just wanted to bring that to your attention and
14 also obviously there will be environmental concerns
15 that need to be addressed; but I feel strongly that
16 those will be addressed. But again, that was just
17 one little piece of the puzzle that I wanted to
18 present to the [Department].

19 Thank you.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Is Representative Trent LeDoux in the
22 room?

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1 @ REP LeDOUX: Thank you. I appreciate the
2 opportunity to be here, and I want to thank everybody
3 for coming out for this. I'm very supportive of this
4 issue. I represent District 50, which is all of
5 Jackson County and Northeast Shawnee County. The
6 GoodYear plant is in the southern edge of my
7 district.

8 I agree with everything that everybody
9 said thus far, and especially appreciate the Governor
10 being here to voice his support. I've got to tell
11 you, I'm a Republican and I'm a pretty damn
12 conservative Republican; and in politics, everything
13 is judged through a prism, and you're pigeonholed,
14 and you've got different sides; but I think it's
15 pretty impressive that labor and business are on the
16 same page on this issue.

17 I'm here for one reason and one reason
18 only: The people in my district, in my State need
19 jobs. And this project is going to provide good jobs
20 for our state, and this project is good for Kansas
21 any way you slice it, and I hope that you all will
22 favorably support it. Thank you for your time.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 Senator Morris?

3 @ SEN MORRIS: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

4 Let me begin by expressing my thanks to
5 the State Department for giving stakeholders and
6 other interested citizens this forum to offer our
7 views. It's vital for Secretary Clinton to hear from
8 informed and credible sources regarding this
9 tremendous proposal before issuing her
10 recommendations to the President on the future of
11 this international endeavor.

12 As President of the Kansas Senate,
13 President of the National Conference of State
14 Legislators, and a member of the Executive Committee
15 for the Energy Council, I consider myself well
16 educated on the energy issues faced not only by our
17 State but by the entire nation. I am an outspoken
18 supporter of energy development of all kinds, because
19 I recognize that the energy needs of our country far
20 exceed our ability to meet those needs with
21 traditionally domestically-produced energy or
22 existing alternative energy resources.

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1 While I enthusiastically support the
2 further development of wind, solar, and biomass-
3 produced energy, I also recognize that hard truth
4 that it will be years before the U.S. will fully
5 support its ever-increasing energy requirements
6 through those means.

7 Until such time as technology and
8 infrastructure reach a point where we can truly
9 harness the full potential of natural resources such
10 as wind, solar and hydro, natural gas and biomass,
11 and provide the energy derived from these sources in
12 an affordable manner, we cannot risk the integrity of
13 our economy, energy grid and fuel production by
14 failing to use the fossil fuels upon which we have
15 built our country; and will still exist in abundance
16 in places like the oil sands of Western Canada.

17 Further, our reliance on foreign
18 governments and industries to meet our energy needs
19 make us in some cases dangerously dependent upon
20 regimes and factions who are not friendly to America.
21 This fact represents a genuine threat to our national
22 security.

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1 The closer to home we can acquire our
2 energy resources, the better. Partnering with our
3 neighbor to the north makes sense for both Canada and
4 the U.S.

5 This project will also provide jobs,
6 desperately needed jobs. The Kansas economy has
7 already benefited greatly from the construction of
8 the XL Kansas segment, which became fully operational
9 earlier this year. The Kansas segment will be vital
10 and a greater project which will ultimately link
11 seven states and two Canadian provinces.

12 I commend Secretary of State Clinton and
13 the State Department, administration and staff who
14 have so diligently and carefully proceeded to study
15 this proposal and quantify its costs and significant
16 benefits. These public hearings are a critical part
17 of the process, and I deeply appreciate the
18 opportunity to offer my support for Keystone XL
19 pipeline project. This proposal simply makes good
20 sense, for the economy, for national security, for a
21 step towards energy independence for the future.

22 Thank you again for your time today.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 Now we will begin to start calling
3 numbers.

4 No. 1, if you can state your name and your
5 affiliation.

6 @ RABBI RIEBER: My name is Rabbi Moti
7 Rieber, and I represent Kansas Interfaith Power &
8 Light, the statewide affiliate of a national
9 organization dedicated to building a faith community
10 response to issues of climate and energy. And as a
11 Kansan, as a person of faith, I wish to express my
12 opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline.

13 I consider this project to be a direct
14 threat to Kansas' natural beauty, to our water and
15 food supply, to the possibility of a clean energy
16 future, and to the stability of the world's climate.
17 The process used to access the tar sands oil is
18 extremely water and energy intensive and devastating
19 for the land and wildlife in Canada. This gunk is
20 then proposed to be piped through the entire length
21 of the country to Texas, where it will be refined for
22 overseas export; so it will not address America's

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1 energy security; and since the pipeline in Kansas is
2 already built, it doesn't really address the jobs
3 issue, either.

4 The areas that this pipeline would pass
5 through are some of the most ecologically-sensitive
6 areas in the country including the Sand Hills region
7 of Nebraska and the Flint Hills region in Kansas.
8 This passes through the Ogallala Aquifer, which
9 supplies drinking water to millions of people, and 27
10 percent of the agricultural irrigation needs of the
11 country.

12 The record of the Keystone I pipeline
13 shows that pipelines leak, they spill, and when they
14 do it will be Kansas' property owners, wildlife and
15 the environment that will suffer.

16 Tar sands oil feeds our addiction to
17 polluting and unsustainable forms of energy, and
18 keeps us from moving toward the clean energy future
19 that we need and that Americans deserve. America is
20 like a drug addict who, fearing that its drug supply
21 will be cut off, searches for newer and evermore
22 dangerous ways to feed the addiction.

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1 Instead, we should be looking for
2 alternatives to our devastating habits, and those
3 alternatives are available, they're on line, and
4 they're usable now. We should be putting into
5 developing those alternatives instead of doubling-
6 down on fossil fuels.

7 But the most important reason to deny the
8 permit for the Keystone XL pipeline is due to the
9 devastating impact it will have on the ongoing
10 climate crisis facing our world. We have known for
11 years now that the earth is getting warmer, that the
12 burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of it,
13 and that we need to drastically reduce our carbon
14 emissions if we are to avoid devastating impacts on
15 the environment all over the world.

16 Yet instead of dealing with this issue and
17 moving toward more sustainable forms of energy, we
18 continue to find new ways like shale oil to add to
19 the carbon burden. Exploiting the tar sands will
20 keep us hooked on this form of oil for another 50
21 years; and as the renowned NASA scientist James
22 Hanson has put it, that will mean 'game over' for our

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1 climate. That is irresponsible, it's immoral, and it
2 must not be allowed to occur.

3 In conclusion, the Keystone XL pipeline
4 represents not energy independence but a new
5 dependence on an even dirtier and environmentally-
6 devastating form of energy. An energy policy that
7 moves the nation toward even dirtier and more
8 dangerous forms of oil, and involves such devastation
9 of God's creation, represents a profound moral
10 failure.

11 Kansas Interfaith Power & Light urges
12 Secretary Clinton and President Obama to say no to
13 environmental devastation, no to climate change, and
14 no to the Keystone XL pipeline. Thank you very much
15 for your attention.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 No. 2?

18 @ REV HAWLEY: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Reverend James Hawley, I'm a minister ordained by the
20 Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and I'm also here today
21 as a representative of Interfaith Power & Light, with
22 chapters in 38 states, over 14,000 congregations.

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1 I very much appreciate this opportunity to
2 voice my opposition to the Keystone XL tar sands oil
3 pipeline, and my concern over the findings of the
4 State Department's final environmental impact
5 statement.

6 As a leader in a faith community and one
7 who patterns his life after the social justice values
8 expressed in the Judeo-Christian tradition, I find it
9 morally indefensible to place our environment at this
10 great risk. I have great sensitivity and compassion
11 for the current job climate, and I can see there is
12 legitimacy to the concern for job creation. I have a
13 particular fear in this one instance, though, that
14 the only long term beneficiary of this product will
15 be one Canadian oil company.

16 As Americans and people of faith, we
17 should not allow this pipeline to feed another 50
18 years of global oil addiction. An energy policy that
19 moves the nation toward an even dirtier and more
20 dangerous form of oil, and involves such devastation
21 of God's creation represents another moral failure.

22 Leading scientists have registered their

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1 opposition to this project, stating that exploiting
2 the tar sands on top of conventional fossil fuels
3 will leave our children and grandchildren a climate
4 system with consequences that our of control. How
5 the final environmental impact statement can conclude
6 the project will have no significant impact defies
7 common sense. Already the environments of North
8 Dakota and the Yellowstone River have suffered damage
9 and contamination from leaks and spills related to
10 this pipeline.

11 As a person of faith, I believe it is in
12 the national interest for President Obama to lead the
13 nation in an urgent response to the current climate
14 crisis. Supporting and enabling such an
15 environmental catastrophe such as this pipeline is
16 inconsistent with our national interest.

17 This project undermines American values
18 and global leadership on the issue of climate and
19 environment, and jeopardizes life on this planet. I
20 hope that President Obama and the State Department
21 will remain committed to his campaign promises of
22 leading America into a more hopeful and optimistic

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1 future rooted in clean, sustainable fuel options so
2 that God's creation may remain not only our
3 stewardship, but also the stewardship of many
4 generations to come. Thank you.

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

6 No. 3.

7 @ MR. TOTTEN: Good afternoon, I'm Bob
8 Totten, and I represent the Kansas Contractors
9 Association; we're a member of about 400 companies
10 that are involved in the heavy highway and utility
11 construction here in the State of Kansas, and we rise
12 in support of the TransCanada pipeline.

13 Our members believe that the
14 infrastructure of the pipeline is critical to
15 improving our nation's energy security at a time of
16 increasing instability in key producing regions. We
17 think that there will be over 700,000 additional
18 barrels of oil that will be able to be transported to
19 U.S. refineries and then to the Kansas consumers.

20 The nearly 1700 mile pipeline, there'll be
21 1300 miles that are in the United States, much of it
22 should be constructed by American workers. This

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1 construction will create over 20,000 high wage jobs,
2 which will then generate hundreds of millions in
3 federal and state income taxes. The local level
4 states along the pipeline's corridor will incur an
5 additional \$5.2 billion, which we think will help
6 take care of our concerns in regards to the economy
7 in our State, and provide the opportunity to have
8 taxes collected, and therefore be able to take care
9 of health care, schools, and the construction of
10 highways.

11 Our members want the United States to be
12 stronger, that it can be, and feel that our
13 dependence on the Middle East and the South American
14 area is counterproductive for our security. It's
15 better to import oil from our largest and most
16 dependable trading partner than to import oil from
17 countries that are less stable and less friendly to
18 American interests.

19 We believe the development of additional
20 North American crude oil supplies will help stabilize
21 the domestic oil and gas prices, and the pipeline
22 will relieve transportation bottlenecks to move crude

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1 to the Gulf Coast.

2 I realize that some believe a pipeline is
3 possibly dangerous and it's not as safe as could be.
4 Here in Kansas we've had pipelines in the ground for
5 over sixty years; we've had a minimal amount of
6 problems in the course of the time of having those
7 pipelines in this area.

8 With the increased scrutiny that's now in
9 place, we understand the new pipeline will exceed all
10 federal pipeline guidelines and therefore will be the
11 safest crude oil pipeline in the country.

12 For these and other reasons, our members
13 support the construction of this pipeline. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 Speaker No. 4.

17 @ MS. HARDER: Good afternoon. My name is
18 Lois Harder, I co-pastor of the Lorraine Avenue
19 Mennonite Church in Wichita, and I'm also
20 representing Kansas Interfaith Power & Light. I
21 thank you for the opportunity to speak to you here
22 today.

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1 From my faith and moral perspective the
2 Keystone XL tar sands pipeline must be resisted.
3 There are several reasons for my argument. Humanity
4 has been given the task of caring for the earth and
5 her resources. This project is an environmental
6 disaster waiting to happen.

7 At a time when our environment is more at
8 risk than ever, there is no reason to add another
9 threat to the well-being of our planet. The Keystone
10 pipeline presents unnecessary risks to the land,
11 water and air from its beginning to its end; but most
12 important for us here in Kansas is the water supply.
13 With 30 percent of all of America's drinking and
14 irrigation water coming from the Ogallala Aquifer, we
15 cannot afford a leak or heaven forbid a spill from
16 this dirty oil into our water.

17 This project could pollute the water as
18 well as the land and the air at alarming rates, since
19 the process of refining this dirty tar sands oil
20 creates even higher levels of pollutants than
21 conventional oil.

22 People of faith have been commanded to be

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1 truthful in what we say and do. This project has
2 been advertised as something good for America. This
3 is a short-sighted and short-term claim. In the long
4 term, I believe it is not something good. It will
5 actual raise the cost of fuel for people here in the
6 Midwest, as we pay for and endure the risk of this
7 crude oil going through our state on its way to being
8 refined and then exported.

9 The Big Oil companies again will profit,
10 while the average America pays. This pipeline has
11 been advertised as creating many more jobs than it
12 actually will create, according to the Cornell
13 University Global Labor Institute. And even by your
14 own State Department's report, many fewer jobs will
15 actually be available from this project than has been
16 estimated or reported.

17 Our nation has been blessed with education
18 and technology. We have a moral responsibility to
19 use our technology and know-how to come up
20 alternative, environmentally-responsible sources of
21 energy. It is immoral to keep stripping the earth of
22 these fossil fuels.

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1 The Keystone pipeline is only a
2 continuation and an increase of our addicted
3 dependence on oil. We must create other sources of
4 energy that can provide jobs and security here at
5 home. Our continued dependence on oil is a moral
6 issue, taking our country deeper into its addiction.

7 The Keystone XL pipeline is immoral.

8 Once again, I thank you for your attention
9 to these matters, and I hope you will consider these
10 points in this important decision. Please do not
11 allow the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline to come
12 through Kansas.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Speaker No. 5.

15 @ MR. SNYDER: Thank you. My name is Ralph
16 Snyder, I'm with the Kansas American Legion; I'm the
17 Assistant Adjutant.

18 We are a veterans organization, and we're
19 at two and a half million strong, and we're still
20 serving our country as we pay our dues to be a
21 volunteer.

22 During the American Legion national

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1 convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from
2 August 30th through September 1st, 2011, Resolution
3 107 was passed. This resolution endorses the
4 Keystone XL pipeline project.

5 The American Legion national headquarters
6 released the following news on September 21st:

7 The National Commander of the American
8 Legion is encouraging Americans to attend
9 a number of public meetings next week
10 concerning the Keystone XL pipeline, a
11 proposed Canadian-American oil project
12 that has the support of the nation's
13 largest veterans' organization. This
14 project alone has the potential to create
15 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs
16 and stimulate related business activity
17 that could lead to at least 250,000
18 permanent jobs.

19 Said Commander Fang Wong, "Returning veterans are
20 disproportionately unemployed, and would undoubtedly
21 benefit from these jobs." Moreover, the United
22 States must reduce its reliance on energy, on imports

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1 that can be disrupted by foreign conflicts,
2 terrorism, or piracy.

3 With the unemployment rate at over nine
4 percent, a project such as this would be a step in
5 the right direction to help solve this problem.
6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 6, can you come up, state your
9 name and your affiliation.

10 @ MR. MOORE: Good afternoon. Bill Moore
11 with the Teamsters -- it's hard to say anything in
12 five minutes.

13 You see a bunch of our brothers here in
14 orange, and I really appreciate the laborers being
15 here; you're actually looking at the people that do
16 the work. I'm happy to say that I'm the first
17 speaker to step up here and walk the walk and now
18 talk the talk.

19 I took a year off a couple years ago to
20 work a pipeline with some of these very guys setting
21 here, with the UA -- that's AFL-CIO electricians, 798
22 welders, and I saw the quality of work they do. I

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1 saw the study, I saw the constant monitoring that
2 goes on in a pipeline; I saw the technology and I saw
3 all the care given to our farmers and our land and
4 our communities; I saw the money that went into the
5 communities; I saw the respect that these people have
6 for the work they do and of the companies that they
7 do that work for.

8 While Kansas is way ahead of everybody
9 else -- we've already got our pipeline in the ground;
10 we don't know what you're waiting on -- but we are
11 anxious to build those two pump stations and get
12 those built, get this pipeline working. I'm
13 speaking not only as one who has worked the pipeline;
14 I've also been a principal officer of our local union
15 for 41 years. I've worked for our international,
16 I've talked to over 300-400 companies: TransCanada
17 is the safest company that I've eve dealt with,
18 worked for, seen or otherwise had any relationships
19 with. They are beyond strict on all safety issues,
20 they're beyond strict on all environmental issues. I
21 would not stand opposed to them building a pipeline
22 right through my back yard.

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1 I'm a grandfather, I'm a father, I've got
2 no objections to what the pipeline does for the
3 future of my family; and until somebody else can tell
4 me that wind, sun and all these other methods are
5 going to propel our economy into anything, we only
6 choice, and that's to build this pipeline. I've got
7 several other comments, pictures etc.; I'll leave
8 those for the record and I'll get out of the way so
9 other people can talk, but I'll ask you to go ahead
10 and complete this pipeline. Thank you very much.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 7.

13 MR. COPE: My name is Jed Cope, and I'm
14 the principal officer of Teamster's Local 541 of
15 Kansas City, Missouri.

16 Our local is primarily a construction
17 local, and we represent people on both sides of the
18 line, State of Missouri as well State of Kansas.

19 Today I speak in support of the Keystone pipeline.

20 There's a couple things I would say about
21 these projects. They bring a big economic boom and
22 would bring one during the worst economy most of us

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1 have experienced in our lifetime. It's expected to
2 create over 13,000 jobs, which puts money in the
3 local communities.

4 Pipeline workers pump money into local
5 grocery stores, restaurants, convenience stores,
6 campgrounds, motels and apartments. These companies
7 use a tremendous amount of supplies; most of those
8 are procured locally, including fuel, concrete,
9 gravel and waste removal. Pipeline projects help
10 balance state and local budgets by throwing off
11 considerable tax revenue.

12 The Keystone XL project is expected to
13 prove more than \$5.2 billion in tax revenue to the
14 states along the Keystone corridor.

15 I think this project's in our national
16 interest as well as our local interest. It will
17 improve America's security by providing a stable
18 energy supply with a friendly, reliable neighbor,
19 Canada.

20 And last but not least, the pipeline is
21 going to be constructed using industry best
22 practices, and will meet or exceed all existing

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1 pipeline regulator standards. So I'm definitely in
2 support of the Keystone pipeline. Thank you.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 8.

5 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. My name's Marion
6 Davis, I work for the International Brotherhood of
7 Teamsters in the construction divisions, I represent
8 workers at nuclear sites, coal fossil plants,
9 pipelines and commercial construction all through the
10 country. I recognize my brothers and sisters here
11 today from the other trades that we work with; the
12 laborer's union, the operating engineers and the
13 United Association of Pipeliners and Welders.

14 I challenge anyone to check the training
15 of these trades; it's impeccable. It's second to
16 none, they're trained to work safely, and
17 environmental safety is along with that training.
18 They know how to do these jobs; they know how to do
19 them safe, they know how to do them clean, they know
20 how to do them right.

21 This country, as we all know, and it will
22 be said many times here today, has gone through

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1 several years of economic depression, rising gas
2 prices, and loss of jobs. This Keystone XL pipeline
3 for these states and these communities and other
4 communities will go a long way to satisfy some of
5 those issues, help some of those issues and get us
6 back on our feet.

7 The brother earlier mentioned a company,
8 Price Gregory that did some previous work in this
9 area. Well, Price Gregory is one of 75 different
10 contractors, signatory that we work with. Price
11 Gregory, in another neighboring state here, just a
12 year or so ago, wrote checks to 197 different
13 vendors, businesses in these communities. Checks
14 that totaled about \$11,000,300. And that's what my
15 brother Jed mentioned a few minutes ago; to hardware
16 stores, campgrounds, parts stores, tire stores. They
17 also make contributions to schools, they make
18 contributions to civic clubs and all different
19 charities. This is good business, and it's
20 environmentally safe, they use the best practice, and
21 we stand in support of the Keystone XL pipeline.
22 Thank you.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 Speaker No. 9.

3 MR. SILLNER: My name is Rob Sillner, and
4 I'm the Director of Project Services for the Keystone
5 pipeline at TransCanada. I want to thank the State
6 Department for the opportunity to present our views
7 today on the national interest determination. We
8 will also be following up before the end of the
9 public comment period with a more in-depth written
10 position paper touching on all the national interest
11 considerations.

12 We appreciate the relationships that
13 TransCanada and Keystone have developed with
14 landowners, communities, businesses, leaders and
15 other stakeholders through the construction and
16 cooperation of the Keystone pipeline system, and we
17 look forward to many more years as good neighbors
18 here.

19 While the work we will be doing in Kansas
20 for Keystone XL is limited, it's a key element in
21 establishing the energy security link between Canada
22 and the U.S. that Keystone XL represents.

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1 The Keystone XL project will provide U.S.
2 refiners with a reliable supply of crude oil for many
3 years to come, and it will foster the important trade
4 relationship between the U.S. and Canada, one of the
5 largest trade relationships in the world.

6 It is significant to note that not only
7 will the project provide a transportation link
8 between the abundance supplies of Western Canadian
9 crude oil and Gulf Coast refiners, but it will also
10 provide U.S. produces in Montana, North Dakota, and
11 the Cushing, Oklahoma area with an outlet to the Gulf
12 Coast refining region.

13 It is well-recognized that pipelines are
14 the safest mode of transporting crude oil.
15 TransCanada has a sixty year record of demonstrating
16 our commitment for operating safely and acting as an
17 environmental steward. I want to assure you that
18 TransCanada can and will build and operate this
19 project safely, and with respect for the environment.

20 Once, again, I thank you for the
21 opportunity to speak this afternoon, and we look
22 forward to the conclusion of the State Department's

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1 review and its decision on the national interest.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 Speaker No. 10.

4 MR. KRAUSE: Thank you. Good afternoon,
5 my name is Jim Krause. I'm Director of Field
6 Operations for TransCanada Keystone Pipelines
7 throughout the U.S. I live in Omaha, Nebraska along
8 with my family; that's also where we have our
9 operations headquarters for the U.S.

10 I appreciate the opportunity to provide
11 some input to you folks, and trust that you will get
12 all the information you need to make these very
13 important decisions.

14 Beyond energy security, construction of
15 the project, as you've heard, will create 20,000
16 construction jobs. We have this experience; we know
17 these numbers are correct because we experienced the
18 same sort of buildup when we built the first phase of
19 our Keystone pipeline, which is already in production
20 and serving markets in the Cushing and St. Louis
21 area.

22 These are good jobs; they'll be filled by

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1 many of the skilled people in this room and from the
2 State of Kansas. We will build and operate the
3 pipeline safely, with respect to for people, for the
4 environment, for the communities that we live and
5 work in. This is our way of doing business.

6 At the same time the project will provide
7 significant tax income into the counties that we
8 cross.

9 Just to get off script a bit, my job is to
10 run the field operations of all the pump stations and
11 pipeline in the U.S. If we get a favorable result
12 and begin building the XL pipeline, just in my
13 department I'll have well over 100 people. To date,
14 I have about 60 people currently working on the
15 pipeline.

16 One thing I would like to point out to the
17 people of Kansas in this room, I feel as a company
18 we've been very blessed by the quality of workers
19 that we've had come into our company, both in the
20 construction phase and the ongoing operations. We
21 found a work ethic here in Kansas and the Midwest
22 that's second to none, and we appreciate and look

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1 forward to the opportunity to bring more people into
2 our company.

3 For all these reasons, we believe the
4 project is squarely in the national interest of the
5 United States and Canada. And again, I look forward
6 to hearing from more people in this room, and thank
7 you very much for your time, and coming here.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 11.

10 Can you state your name and affiliation.

11 MR. DUNCAN: Hello, my name is Rick
12 Duncan. I'm the Gateway Manager for Keystone
13 pipeline. I've lived in Kansas most of my life.
14 Before that, Nebraska.

15 I've spent most of my adult life
16 protecting the very environment that supposedly we're
17 now putting in jeopardy. I spent eight years as
18 Operations Superintendent for the City of Hiawatha,
19 Kansas, taking care of all the utilities, including
20 water and wastewater. I then began a career helping
21 the rural communities of Kansas with the Kansas Rural
22 Water Association, through a project with the EPA --

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1 again protecting the Kansas environment.

2 If I thought TransCanada was endangering
3 the environment, I would not be here today. The
4 project is not only good for Kansas, it's also good
5 for America. We have to break free from importing
6 oil from countries that do not share our interests
7 and our values. Keystone will also boost our state
8 economy by providing thousands of jobs.

9 I'm confident that TransCanada can build
10 and operate Keystone XL safely. I urge the State
11 Department to approve Keystone XL; it is right for
12 America. Thank you for your time today.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 The next speaker, Speaker No. 12.

15 MR. DYE: Thank you for allowing us to
16 speak today on this issue. My name is Greg Dye, and
17 I'm a resident of Wichita, Kansas, and I support the
18 Keystone project.

19 In Kansas, as mentioned before, we only
20 have three refineries left. Years ago we had twenty.
21 The EPA shut down ten of them, which is not good
22 news; and as you all know, the Alaskan pipeline is a

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1 success, but they've been in business ever since way
2 back in the 1970s. And the Keystone people support
3 natural gas as part of a solution to the problem;
4 they do have access to lots of natural gas, and it's
5 probably going to take probably 20 years in order to
6 promote it to the level we need to get some relief.

7 The ones who oppose this project and us
8 using too much oil, it would be a big help if they
9 just didn't change the oil in their cars. Thank you
10 very much.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 12 -- 13.

13 MS. BURDICK: My name is Amrita Burdick.

14 I am here as a concerned citizen and as a farmer's
15 daughter. And I look around and I see a lot of
16 people concerned about jobs, and I'm concerned about
17 jobs, too, which is probably one of my main concerns.

18 But I look around and I see a lot of
19 orange shirts, and I'm wondering where the blue denim
20 shirts are from the Western part of the State,
21 because agricultural, as we see from the name of this
22 particular building, has been one of the foundations

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1 of Kansas; it's been one of the foundations of all
2 the states, Kansas - Nebraska - South Dakota - North
3 Dakota, that this pipeline runs through.

4 Now I know that people have several
5 concerns. One is jobs, one is national security, and
6 the other is safety. And I'm going to talk mainly
7 about jobs, but I'm going to mention the other two
8 just a little bit.

9 In terms of national security and oil
10 independence, one of the problems with this is that
11 as recent news reports have released company
12 documents, much of this oil is going through the
13 sensitive parts of the Midwest, which provides the
14 bulk of our agricultural economy, and it's going down
15 to the Gulf eventually, when the build the last part
16 of the pipeline, to be shipped overseas. We're not
17 going to get this oil.

18 And for people that are concerned about
19 OPEC, one of the holdings in this company is a Saudi
20 Arabian origin. So FYI, that's out there.

21 In terms of safety, I know that just this
22 past year there have been 12 only small spills in the

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1 Oklahoma pipeline part of the area. This is going
2 through much more fragile water, the Ogallala
3 Aquifer, which is important to me because I grew up
4 in Southwest Nebraska and I know the long struggles
5 that Kansas and Nebraska have had over water already.
6 I really do not want sludge leaking into that
7 Ogallala Aquifer, which helps irrigate the crops that
8 we grow, that helps feed the livestock and through
9 the other water supplies that eventually go into some
10 of our municipal water.

11 One of the things that I would mention
12 also in terms of safety is that this pipeline will
13 carry sludge which, according to current law, is too
14 dirty to be transported. And this is law that was
15 signed into effect by George W. Bush, who is not
16 exactly an oil opponent.

17 I would say that recent history has shown
18 us the dangers of putting our trust wholeheartedly
19 into technology. We've seen the BP accidents, of
20 people working too fast and not making adequate
21 safety measures; we've seen natural disasters as in
22 the Japanese earthquakes. We've also, in terms of

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1 economics, seen the dangers of putting all our money
2 and all our hopes into pipe dreams -- and I say pipe
3 dreams for this particular thing with reason.

4 I've driven across the State of Kansas
5 many, many times and I've seen all these signs that
6 say "one Kansas farmer feeds 70 -- then it grew up to
7 90 -- and then 120 Americans, and you." I really
8 would hate, because of oil spills, to see the day
9 when we decrease our food independence of this
10 country and where we go across the state and it says,
11 "Kansas supports 120 oil refineries in China -- or
12 whatever -- because they're shipping the oil
13 overseas. They're going to the Gulf to ship it
14 overseas, and we are importing food -- wheat and
15 beef, et cetera from Saskatchewan or Alberta because
16 we've damaged our own water supplies. Thank you.

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Next speaker, No. 14.

19 MR. HENDRIX: Thank you. My name is Danny
20 Hendrix, I'm the Business Manager of Pipeliners Local
21 Union 798. I represent over 6800 members nationwide,
22 an organization composed of the most highly skilled,

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1 trained pipeline constructors in the world; and our
2 union will be instrumental in constructing the
3 Keystone XL pipeline from the Canadian border in to
4 Texas.

5 Build it, but build it right. Where
6 skilled labor is used, TransCanada's commitment to
7 building the best pipeline possible is assured.
8 Build it, but build it right. Hopefully before we
9 leave here today, you will understand the importance
10 of this project, not only from a national security
11 standpoint, but as a common sense approach.

12 Local 798 members have had the privilege
13 to partner with TransCanada for the past three years,
14 on construction of the original Keystone pipeline
15 project that was finished on time, under budget, and
16 with full compliance with all federal, state, and
17 environmental laws. Build it, but build it right.

18 Many of the remarks from the opposition to
19 the Keystone are about the pipeline and what if.
20 Local 798, as a group, has been involved with many
21 mega projects such as the Rex, project, almost 1700
22 miles of 36-inch and 42-inch pipe. The Alliance

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1 pipeline, 886 miles of 36-inch; the Vector line, 348
2 miles of 42-inch; the Ruby pipeline, just completed,
3 680 miles of 42-inch; and the Alaska pipeline, 800
4 miles of 48-inch.

5 All of these projects, all of them met
6 with the same opposition and many of the same what-
7 ifs. All of these mega -projects involved
8 geographical obstacles and challenges thought to be
9 insurmountable to the naysayers. But through proper
10 planning and advanced engineering today, they all lay
11 quietly in the ground performing as a conduit of
12 energy for America's needs. Built and built right.

13 Pipelines are the safest and most
14 efficient way to transport any liquid or vapor, and
15 to that there is no argument. When a client such as
16 TransCanada chooses the best value contractors, who
17 in turn use the best craftsmen in the industry,
18 utilizing third party inspection to ensure complete
19 compliance that the environmental issues are properly
20 handled and instituted so that the impact to the
21 landowners and natural resources are minimized.
22 Build it, but build it right.

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1 To me personally the most important issue
2 is who we purchase oil from. We will continue to buy
3 oil for years to come; to think otherwise is foolish.
4 But from what country? Why should we care if we
5 purchase from Canada or OPEC nations?

6 Canada has the largest oil reserves
7 outside of Saudi Arabia, Canada shares with us a
8 common border, Canada shares with us the Pacific and
9 the Atlantic Oceans; they also share in our economy,
10 by being such a close neighbor. 90 percent of all
11 Canadians live within 100 miles of our border. and we
12 share many of the same ideologies.

13 Listen to me: We must stop the transfer
14 of wealth from this country to OPEC countries. We
15 send roughly \$1 million a minute to OPEC for supplies
16 of energy. One minute, one million dollars, every
17 single day. Nearly half a trillion dollars a year at
18 today's prices.

19 What will be the price of a barrel of oil
20 next year? Or ten years from now. That transfer of
21 wealth does not translate into a single job for this
22 country, or any tax revenues. What we do get is a

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1 barrel of oil and a barrel of trouble. We cannot
2 keep this insanity up forever.

3 Some of the OPEC nations that we purchased
4 oil from, I believe. are fueling and financing the
5 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? How do we propose to
6 win either of these conflicts when we are financing
7 both sides?

8 There are many other reasons that make
9 sense for permitting this project, but I will allow
10 some of the other speakers on the panel to make their
11 key point. I stand here in full support of the
12 Keystone XL. Please join me in supporting the
13 Keystone XL pipeline project. Where skilled labor is
14 used, this pipeline will be built right, and that is
15 a result that we should all want: Build it, but
16 build it right. Thank you.

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker No. 15, you have the floor.

19 MR. PILGREEN: Hello. My name is Wade
20 Pilgreen, a 31-year member of Pipeliners Local Union
21 798. But first of all, I am an American. I have
22 worked on several major pipeline projects across the

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1 country. I have seen this industry grow by leaps and
2 bounds in safety and environmental areas.

3 I also share the concern of everyone in
4 this room and across this country about safety and
5 environmental issues of the Keystone XL pipeline.

6 But I do feel TransCanada will do everything
7 possible, such as use the most qualified personnel as
8 798 welders, and the most advanced materials in the
9 construction of this pipeline.

10 I know without a doubt that it is in their
11 best interest to build and maintain this pipeline
12 with state-of-the-art technology and to treat the
13 public as well as landowners with respect and
14 dignity.

15 I would also like to take a moment and
16 express my feelings of why we need this pipeline so
17 desperately. The number one reason is to stop buying
18 oil from nations that do not have the best interests
19 of Americans at heart, and to stop the transferring
20 of wealth to the OPEC countries. This will create
21 several thousand jobs, real jobs for the American
22 worker.

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1 While I do believe we need all the
2 alternative energy sources that the environmentalists
3 are saying we need; but at this time we're not far
4 enough along in these resources to provide this
5 nation those alternatives only. We still depend on
6 oil.

7 I know the Midwest is deeply routed in
8 farming families, as I grew up doing just that; we
9 used oil products on a daily if not hourly basis;
10 diesel to run our tractors, oil and grease to lube
11 our equipment; and fuel to drive to get supplies and
12 to heat our homes. This people will provide another
13 avenue for the United States to have more of these
14 products. The more the supply, the lower the prices.

15 I truly believe this pipeline will be a
16 huge impact on getting the U.S. economy back on the
17 right track by creating several thousand jobs.

18 On the safety of oil pipelines in general,
19 there are 55,000 miles of crude oil pipelines in
20 America, saying that there are very few incidents for
21 that many miles of pipeline in production. Pipelines
22 are the number one, safest way to transport products

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1 in America.

2 Also, the U.S. State Department has done
3 an extensive study on the impact of this pipeline on
4 the environment, and have found there to be no
5 significant impact to the environment. I've also
6 heard TransCanada say their goal is to build and
7 maintain their pipeline without one single incident.
8 I am strongly in favor of the Keystone XL pipeline
9 and feel they are committed to doing just that.

10 Thanks. I do appreciate your time on this
11 very important matter.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 16, if you can state your name
14 and your affiliation.

15 @ MR. WILDS: My name is Robert Wilds, I'm a
16 Special Pipeline Representative for the Operating
17 Engineers. I would like to thank the board for the
18 opportunity to speak here.

19 The International Union of Operating
20 Engineers represents 400,000 construction workers in
21 this country. Contractors employ the operating
22 engineers and every other craft that is in here, have

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1 constructed over 30,000 miles of pipeline just in the
2 last ten years alone.

3 The Keystone XL project will create
4 thousands of jobs in construction and manufacturing
5 at a time when the construction industry and the
6 economy really needs a boost. These workers will
7 spend their wages from this project in many
8 communities along this pipeline's route, giving all
9 local economy some much-needed revenue, not to
10 mention that creating jobs means more tax revenue,
11 more benefits for our communities.

12 The \$7 billion private sector project will
13 be built without use of public funds. Along with the
14 Canadian crude, this pipeline will import to the
15 United States a large portion of the pipeline's
16 capacity will be taken up with American crude from
17 North Dakota and Montana. A large percentage of this
18 crude from North Dakota and Montana is transported by
19 truck today, which creates hazards on our nation's
20 busy highways.

21 The Keystone XL project will be state-of-
22 the-art in technologies and safety. The Department

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1 of Transportation statistics show that the pipelines
2 are the safest, most economical way to transport
3 crude and natural gas across the land. The Keystone
4 XL project will be regulated by the Department of
5 Transportation. This company will also be mandated
6 by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
7 Administration to incorporate 57 special conditions
8 along the whole pipeline route. Conditions to which
9 no other whole pipeline in this country is subject
10 to.

11 From special construction techniques to
12 enhanced specifications and design of materials,
13 these conditions ensure the commitment to safety by
14 all parties involved in construction, operation and
15 regulation of this project.

16 The environmental review is clear that
17 this pipeline will improve the environment and the
18 safety of the general public. It will also reduce
19 our dependence on heavy crude oil from unstable
20 foreign countries, that of course improves our
21 national security.

22 Speaking of national security, I'd like to

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1 take a second to give a history lesson on how a
2 pipeline actually helped win World War II. There was
3 a crude oil line, they called it an emergency war
4 line, ran from Texas to the East Coast. It was built
5 in the 1940s, because the German U-boats were in the
6 Atlantic Ocean sinking all our tankers that were
7 taking oil to the East Coast, for our factories to
8 build our war machine so we could help defeat the
9 Germans.

10 If it had not been for this pipeline,
11 maybe we'd be speaking German today. I don't know.
12 Just a quick little lesson.

13 In summary, this project will bring much
14 of a needed economic boost to the struggling economy
15 as well as long term stabilization by reducing the
16 United States, of America's dependence on crude from
17 unstable foreign countries. This all in turn
18 improves our national security as well as our
19 environment.

20 The International Union of Operating
21 Engineers supports the development of the Keystone XL
22 project and believes it is in the best interest of

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1 all Americans. Therefore, on behalf of the
2 International Union of Operating Engineers, I
3 respectfully request that the Department of State
4 please find TransCanada XL project in our national
5 interest and approve the Presidential Permit. Thank
6 you for the opportunity to talk.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 17.

9 MR. SOFTLEY: My name is Ken Softley, I'm
10 unaffiliated but I'm here to represent anyone and
11 everyone whose life or livelihood depends on the
12 Ogallala Aquifer. I grew up in South Central
13 Northeast in the mid-Fifties. My family moved to the
14 far corner of the Nebraska Panhandle, and most of my
15 adult life since then I've lived on this side of the
16 Sand Hills while my family was on the other side. So
17 I've driven just about every route between here and
18 the Nebraska Panhandle; I-80 along the south edge of
19 the Sand Hills, Nebraska Highway 2 through the center
20 of the Sand Hills; US 20 across the north edge of the
21 Sand Hills.

22 Now if you think Sand Hills means 'desert'

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1 there are about 20,000 square miles of prime pasture
2 in the Sand Hills, and you might be surprised to
3 learn that includes 1.3 million acres of wetlands
4 that sustain hundreds of varieties of plants, animals
5 and migratory birds, and especially cattle. Wetlands
6 in the Sand Hills, that may not sound right. But
7 under that rare land mass is the Ogallala Aquifer,
8 reaching even further than the boundaries of the Sand
9 Hills, into Wyoming, almost to Iowa, south through
10 Kansas and Oklahoma into the Texas Panhandle. That's
11 a lot of pure water, an amount that is reported to be
12 equal to Lake Huron. Water that sustains cities,
13 farms, ranches, and all the wildlife that I
14 mentioned.

15 Now TransCanada wants to build a pipeline
16 across part of that terrain, rather than spending
17 some additional funds that could route the Keystone
18 XL around the aquifer and the Sand Hills. We're all
19 aware that the collective safety record of the
20 various oil companies leaves a lot to be desired.
21 Since the July Exxon spill into the Yellowstone River
22 in Montana, the company estimated their cleanup cost

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1 at about \$42 million. TransCanada's Keystone I
2 reportedly had 12 leaks in its first year of
3 operation.

4 In the very possible event of a spill that
5 might pollute the aquifer, how do you clean something
6 like that up? It ranges from 50 feet underground to
7 a depth of 500 feet. You don't clean something like
8 that up. There's no way you can estimate a cost of
9 curing that problem.

10 Let TransCanada build their pipeline, but
11 have them route it around one of the rare and
12 necessary ecological treasures of this world. Don't
13 let them cut costs by cutting the corner. Don't put
14 the Ogallala Aquifer at risk.

15 I thank you for your time and attention.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 18.

18 MS. SCIWALD: Madam Chairman, my name is
19 Cheryl Sciwald and I own CR Inspection, Incorporated.
20 CR Inspection is the only gas and oil third party
21 pipeline inspection company in the State of Kansas.

22 My company was one of the few companies

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1 called to the Houston headquarters of TransCanada as
2 a finalist for the pipeline construction inspection
3 services on the Keystone XL pipeline.

4 Last week, I learned that my company
5 didn't get the bid; but because I strongly believe in
6 the necessity of this pipeline for our country, I'd
7 like to share some facts that I learned in this whole
8 bid process.

9 I'd like to break it down to the three
10 most basic issues here; the ecological, the economic,
11 and the social impact of this pipeline.

12 Ecological first. Let me tell you the
13 facts that I learned when I bid on this pipeline.
14 There are 16 spreads or divisions in this 1331 mile
15 pipeline. You guys know what a spread is. These
16 spreads cover five states.

17 From the inspection side, there will be
18 six environmental inspectors and three safety
19 inspectors on each spread. In total there will be 96
20 environmental inspectors and 48 safety inspectors
21 during the construction of the Keystone project.

22 Now for those of you who don't know what

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1 third party pipeline inspection companies do, we are
2 boots on the ground specialists in overseeing the
3 safety, the environment, the welding, the right-of-
4 way. We work for the gas company or the oil company,
5 or TransCanada. There will be 356 weld quality
6 control and right-of-way inspectors hired to monitor
7 the construction of the pipeline at all phases.
8 They will be there at all times, overseeing the
9 construction of this pipeline. That's over 22
10 inspectors per spread.

11 There are 57 new special conditions of
12 construction on the Keystone XL pipeline that have
13 been added for safety and environmental protection.
14 The 57 new conditions of construction are above and
15 beyond what is normally required for a new pipeline.

16 These 57 new requirements of this pipeline
17 will be monitored by the Federal Energy Regulatory
18 Commission, or what we know as FERC. The Keystone XL
19 pipeline will be constructed and operated at a safety
20 level beyond that of any existing crude oil pipeline
21 in the United States.

22 Just an FYI -- I was just going to go on

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1 and talk about all of the other government agencies
2 that TransCanada has met with, like the Department of
3 Game and Park, State Department of Roads, State
4 Department of Fish & Wildlife. This has been a three
5 year process, putting this pipeline together, and
6 TransCanada has met with a lot of state and federal
7 organizations; and after the completion of these
8 meetings, this is how these 57 additional rules came
9 about.

10 The economic impact, there will be a
11 minimum of 3000 and as many as 6000 construction
12 workers hired to build the Keystone XL pipeline,
13 depending on the time of the year. This number is in
14 addition to the 500 inspectors that will be hired to
15 oversee the safety environment of the construction
16 process.

17 Finally, pipelines are a vital part of our
18 country's infrastructure and have been quietly
19 serving our nation for decades. American pipelines
20 have been delivering valuable materials to
21 manufacture drugs and pharmaceuticals, plastics,
22 chemicals and construction material since the 1940s.

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1 We need 'ethical oil' not 'conflict oil.'

2 Why are we sending American dollars to buy
3 oil from Nigeria, Iran, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia?
4 Why are we providing funding for their aggression
5 towards Americans and even their own citizens.
6 Canadian oil is ethical oil. We must stop risking
7 our energy security and build the TransCanada
8 Keystone pipeline today. Thank you.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 Speaker No. 19.

11 MR. GROSS: Thank you. My name is Tom
12 Gross, I'm a Special Representative over pipeline and
13 gas distribution for the United Association of
14 Journeymen Apprentices, for the plumbing and
15 pipefitting industry of the United States and Canada.

16 Thank you for allowing me to address this
17 hearing. I represent 340,000 members of the United
18 Association, along with their families. The UA, as
19 my organization is known, provides highly trained
20 craftsmen and women who build everything from homes,
21 schools, hospitals, to power plants, manufacturing
22 facilities; our members will be the ones who will be

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1 constructing the Keystone XL pipeline.

2 It is important to the United Association
3 that everyone understands that the security of our
4 environment is and will continue to be an important
5 concern to us. We are deeply committed to preserving
6 our air, water, natural resources for future
7 generations. And we also know, pipelines have already
8 been shown to be the safest as well as the most
9 economically viable, environmentally secure way to
10 transport oil.

11 The Final Environmental Impact Statement
12 for the purpose of the Keystone XL project was
13 released on August 26, 2011. Please understand that
14 this document was not just a statement, but a
15 detailed report that included stringent analysis and
16 addressed many concerns that the public has voiced.

17 I have seen firsthand the construction of
18 pipelines throughout North America, and I can tell
19 you that when the UA is involved, you can rest
20 assured that they are built with the utmost skill,
21 integrity and commitment to safety. Rights-of-way
22 are meticulously prepared; the segregation of topsoil

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1 and subsoil, and once the pipeline is laid and
2 buried, the process of reclamation is very carefully
3 and successfully completed.

4 The State Department is correct when it
5 states the Keystone XL pipeline will have minimal
6 environmental impact. The route has been carefully
7 prepared and rerouted to ensure the fragile aquifers
8 will not be disturbed. The project will continue the
9 tradition of environmental integrity that the UA and
10 our signatory contractors have demonstrated for many
11 decades.

12 Keystone is the most scrutinized project
13 in recent memory. I can think of no project that has
14 been reviewed more thoroughly than this one. But
15 that's fine with us, because we know that this
16 project will be safe and environmentally sound;
17 that's how we build all of our pipelines.

18 Four of the most important questions
19 facing our nation today are: How can we create more
20 jobs, how can we increase our energy supply while
21 reducing our dependence on oil from the Middle East;
22 how can we further ensure our national security? And

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1 how can we do all these things and still protect our
2 environment?

3 The TransCanada Keystone pipeline project
4 can help answer all three of these questions. So
5 perhaps another important question should follow:
6 How can we say no to a project and go a very long way
7 in answering each of these questions? The reality is
8 we cannot.

9 It is estimated the Keystone project will
10 create a minimum of 13,000 construction jobs, 7,000
11 manufacturing jobs, and at least another 118,000
12 spin-off jobs of other sectors.

13 Personal incomes could see a boost of \$6.5
14 million-billion and these projects will not cost the
15 American taxpayer a dime. I have seen firsthand what
16 construction of a pipeline can do for a town; motels,
17 small convenience stores, restaurants, and reap
18 substantial benefits. Sales taxes increase as well,
19 giving a boost to our local governments.

20 It has been stated that communities and
21 states along the pipeline route during construction
22 will receive \$600 million in new tax revenues, and

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1 another \$5.2 billion in property taxes over the life
2 of the pipeline.

3 U.S. employment associated with the oil
4 sands in Canada could go as high as 465,000 by the
5 year 2035. Communities in states along the pipeline
6 route will benefit by hundreds of millions of dollars
7 in new tax revenues. Imagine how many schools we
8 could build. Fire and police departments could be
9 strengthened; how many roads we could repair, and so
10 much more, with that kind of revenue.

11 It is projected that \$5.2 billion in
12 property taxes will be collected over the life of the
13 line, life of the pipeline. Imagine how much good we
14 can do with that kind of revenue.

15 Creating jobs, enhancing energy
16 independence, improving national security, the
17 Keystone pipeline will do all these and more. Please
18 support this important project for all Americans.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker No. 20.

22 MR. BARNETT: Good afternoon. My name is

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1 David Barnett, and I'm an elected representative from
2 Pipeliners Local Union 798 of the United Association.

3 I want to take this opportunity to thank
4 you for allowing me to speak here today. I would
5 first like to say that I consider myself a balanced
6 environmentalist, not an environmental extremist. I
7 truly believe in treating our environment around us
8 with the utmost respect and consideration. I fully
9 support the extensive environmental studies that have
10 been performed for the Keystone XL pipeline project,
11 and further support their findings that have shown
12 that this project will have minimal impact to the
13 environment.

14 I would dare say that when this fine
15 building was constructed, that it too had an
16 environmental impact; but cooler heads prevailed and
17 here we stand today. I've spent 35 years of my life
18 in the pipeline construction field, and would dare
19 say with the exception of a couple in the room, that
20 I have as much hands-on experience at constructing
21 pipeline.

22 The largest project in which I was

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1 personally involved was the 1975 and 1976
2 construction of the Alaska Pipeline project; perhaps
3 some of you have heard of it. This project came up
4 against much opposition from environmental groups of
5 that day. These environmental groups made lots of
6 predictions back then, such as caribou would not and
7 could not survive around the pipeline. Yet today we
8 see pictures that indicate that it appears to be the
9 grazing area of their choice.

10 Pipelines are the safest and most
11 environmental favorable way to transport oil and
12 petroleum products that we know of. The Trans-Alaska
13 pipeline has safely transported approximately 16
14 billion barrels of oil to date, with no major
15 disasters and no major impact to wildlife or the
16 tundra. And now the environmental groups of today
17 are saying that the Ogallala Aquifer is in danger if
18 the Keystone XL pipeline is constructed.

19 I refer to a professor that I happen to
20 know, Mr. Burke Fisher. And according to him, he
21 has very much knowledge of the aquifers. Oil would
22 absorb into sand at approximately three-tenths of an

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1 inch per hour. Whereas water and gasoline soak in at
2 a rate 300 times that.

3 If you look at how many gas stations are
4 over that aquifer, with buried gasoline tanks, it
5 seems to be much more of a concern to me than this
6 pipeline. This pipeline, through TransCanada's
7 cooperation, they have agreed to lower pressure with
8 increased wall thickness, the latest technology in
9 leak detection; and as I said, the best possible
10 constructors that they can get to build it.

11 Leaning on my 35 years of pipeline
12 construction experience and the level of today's
13 available technology, I do not believe for a moment
14 that the Ogallala Aquifer is in any real danger of
15 contamination by this pipeline, as some would lead us
16 to believe.

17 I currently represent 6800 pipeline
18 constructors who are the most highly trained and
19 highly skilled welders, pipefitters and pipeline
20 helpers in the world. Some of these pipeline workers
21 that I'm speaking of reside right here in this area,
22 and perhaps are some of your neighbors.

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1 TransCanada Corporation has committed to
2 using a highly skilled work force to construct the
3 Keystone pipeline through this State. Why did they
4 choose the highest quality contractor and work force
5 in the world for this project? Not because they were
6 the cheapest contractors, but because they were the
7 best contractors. The best at building the right-of-
8 way, the best at developing good relationships with
9 the landowners, and the best contractors available
10 for the end result of minimal impact to the
11 environment.

12 Might I add that by choosing these
13 contractors, this work force, it will also raise the
14 bar for a level of public safety in the area of
15 pipelines.

16 While we are on the subject of public
17 safety, I feel, as many Americans do, that we need to
18 purchase as much of our oil as we can from friendly
19 Canadian allies to the north. As we now know, some
20 of the oil money that has been spent overseas in the
21 past has come back to reign terror on our great
22 country and its citizens.

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1 In my opinion, and as I am sure all of you
2 would agree, that this, too, is a matter of public
3 safety. This comes at a time when America needs jobs
4 badly, maybe as badly as it has in 75 years. This
5 project will pump \$10 billion in private equity money
6 into our economy. \$600 million is the estimates
7 along the pipeline route that it will build as they
8 construct it.

9 I, too, desire America to develop more
10 green technology and implement it into our lives.
11 This will not happen overnight. And as I stand here
12 today, America has a large dependency on oil for many
13 uses. We all came here to this meeting today in some
14 form of transportation, and I would dare bet that an
15 oil product propelled you here.

16 As I have previously stated, I stand in
17 full support of the passage of the Keystone XL
18 pipeline so we can get on and start the paychecks to
19 flowing. Thank you.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 And before I call on No. 21, I just want
22 to remind everyone that if you have your comments

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1 written down and you're not speaking
2 extemporaneously, you can turn them and they will be
3 a part of the record. So if you don't finish
4 speaking everything that you've gotten written down,
5 again, please just remember that what you have will
6 be part of the record. Thank you.

7 Before I call on No. 21, I understand we
8 have another elected representative here. TerriLois
9 Gregory, you have the floor.

10 REP GREGORY: Thank you. Thank you for
11 bringing me in a little early. My comments will be
12 brief.

13 I am TerriLois Gregory, I represent
14 District 10. District 10 is the southern portion of
15 Lawrence, all of Baldwin City, all of Wellsville, and
16 the northern part of Ottawa. And I think that you're
17 going to hear a lot of comments and facts here today;
18 so ill be brief and just let you know that I am
19 encouraging you to support the pipeline project.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Now may I call on Speaker 21.

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1 MS. FELL: My name is Ann Fell. I am a
2 landowner, mother, grandmother and a small business
3 owner from Winfield, Kansas. I do not think the
4 pipeline would serve our national interest.

5 We hear a lot about how the U.S. needs tar
6 sands oil to achieve a friendly source of petroleum
7 and lead to our energy independence from Middle East
8 oil. We also hear that TransCanada is pushing
9 forward with a plan to transport a form of oil that
10 contains dangerously high levels of several
11 pollutants across the entire midsection of our
12 country, to places along the Gulf Coast.

13 Why there? Because that is where
14 refineries exist that can process this crude oil. In
15 addition, TransCanada investors also will have access
16 to shipping ports where they will be able to export
17 this oil and its refined products to world markets
18 tax-free.

19 Valero is the only U.S. company among the
20 six major customers for tar sands oil. It appears
21 most of that oil is destined for the world market,
22 not U.S. consumers.

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1 I have looked over the environmental
2 impact statement for the Keystone XL pipeline. The
3 summary states that there would be significant
4 adverse effects to certain cultural resources along
5 the proposed corridor. I live in Cowley County where
6 the pipeline is already buried less than a mile
7 upstream from the Walnut River.

8 Winfield Kansas annually hosts an
9 international music festival on the banks of the
10 Walnut River that draws thousands of musicians from
11 all over the world. What would happen to the Walnut
12 Valley Festival in the event of a tar sands oil leak
13 there? The singlemost important economic event in
14 our area would be jeopardized.

15 Nowhere in the environmental impact
16 statement did I find a reference to the added hazards
17 of increasing the carbon emissions to our atmosphere
18 through refinement and use of tar sands crude oil
19 products. Every resident in Kansas, the United
20 States and even in the world would be adversely
21 affected by the pipeline because of its increased
22 carbon content.

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1 My county in Southern Kansas has just
2 experienced the hottest summer on record, beating
3 even the records from the 1930s. Crops failed, our
4 gardens were a futile attempt this year. How host
5 must it become before we wake up and admit that
6 something is happening to the planet which sustains
7 all the life we know? It is certainly not in our
8 national interest to ignore the overwhelming numbers
9 of trained scientists who tell us there is a problem.

10 Some may say that human influence on the
11 carbon content in our atmosphere cannot be
12 conclusively proved. I suggest that we are not
13 operating here with the innocent until proven guilty
14 premise of our judicial system. Rather, we operate
15 as we would if our physician tells us we must stop
16 smoking for our own good.

17 Truly in our national interest, it is time
18 we listen. Our experts have spoken, and it is time
19 we stopped smoking and put our American ingenuity to
20 work finding clean energy alteratives to the high
21 carbon fuels of which the tar sands oil tops the
22 list.

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1 I am a fairly recent, first time
2 grandparent. I would like to think that our nation's
3 leaders will consider the health and prosperity of my
4 grandchild and other grandchildren, and indeed, even
5 their eventual grandchildren before issuing permits
6 for short term gain.

7 I would like to think we will take the
8 steps necessary to preserve our planet and its
9 atmosphere for long term sustainability. I urge the
10 President and the State Department to deny the
11 pipeline permit. Thank you.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 22.

14 State your name and affiliation.

15 MR. HUNTER: My name is Charlie Hunter,
16 I'm a biology professor from Southwestern College and
17 a citizen of Cowley County, Kansas. Most
18 importantly, I'm a father and a grandfather, and I
19 sincerely believe the future of my children and
20 grandchildren, indeed all our children and
21 grandchildren, is at stake here. I'm opposed to the
22 Keystone XL pipeline for several reasons.

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1 Number 1: The proposed pipeline will
2 traverse 250 miles through the heart of Nebraska Sand
3 Hills, and over the largest and thickest remaining
4 portion of the Ogallala Aquifer. The fact that a
5 smaller Keystone pipeline has experienced at least 12
6 leaks or spills in the last year is disconcerting at
7 the very least, if not alarming considering the
8 potential for a major ecological disaster.

9 The pipeline is designed to transport
10 nearly one million barrels per day. The tar sands
11 oil that the pipeline will carry is not a simple
12 liquid. In fact, it's a slurry that has abrasive and
13 corrosive properties that will challenge any
14 pipeline. Oil leaks and spills in this pipeline are
15 inevitable and unavoidable.

16 Number 2: Tar sands oil has been
17 accurately termed 'dirty oil' due to the intensity of
18 the process required to mine, extract and refine it.
19 Estimates of CO2 release from mining, extracting and
20 refining tar sands oil range from three to five times
21 greater than the CO2 emissions from crude oil from
22 the United States.

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1 As some have stated, burning one gallon of
2 tar sands gasoline in a Toyota Prius is equivalent to
3 burning one gallon of conventionally-produced and
4 refined gasoline in a Hummer.

5 Number 3: The contention by the oil
6 industry and project proponents of the Keystone XL
7 pipeline will lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil
8 is a myth if not a scam. It is clear that Keystone
9 XL is an export pipeline. Tar sands oil will be
10 transported to diesel refineries in Port Arthur,
11 Texas, a tax-free trade zone. Of the six companies
12 that have committed to purchase over 75 percent of
13 Keystone's initial capacity, the sole U.S. company is
14 Valero Oil. Valero has publicly disclosed that it
15 plans to ship the diesel fuel it refines from tar
16 sands to overseas customers.

17 Number 4: The key question is whether or
18 not this pipeline serves the national interest, which
19 I interpret as 'we the people.' It is becoming
20 apparent that our country does not need this oil, and
21 that the primary interest being served by this
22 pipeline will be TransCanada and the oil industry.

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1 Since this project was announced, the oil industry
2 has acknowledged that higher fuel economy standards
3 means declining U.S. oil demand.

4 Our country needs to come to grips with
5 our addiction to oil, and this pipeline only feeds
6 that addiction. The only way to reduce our
7 dependence on foreign oil is to reduce our dependence
8 on oil, period. It is paramount that our country
9 continues to develop alternative energy sources, and
10 continues to promote the power of conservation of
11 energy resources.

12 Witnessing and participating in the
13 worldwide event called "Moving Planet, a day to move
14 beyond fossil fuels" this past weekend has certainly
15 given me renewed hope and energy.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

18 Speaker No. 23.

19 MR. NORTINGTON: Thank you. My name is
20 John Northington. I'm with the Consumer Energy
21 Alliance, and I'm here today to ask for a
22 presidential approval for the Keystone XL pipeline.

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1 Canada is our strongest ally, our largest
2 trading partner. I won't belabor the many myriad
3 positive points that we've already heard so far today
4 about jobs and revenue and things like that that the
5 pipeline will bring to this country, but I'll try to
6 keep it brief and within the scope of national
7 interest. We need to work towards energy
8 independence. This pipeline will bring 700,000
9 barrels a day of Canadian crude from a friendly,
10 stable ally. Currently our imports from the Middle
11 East and other unstable nations are just -- we have
12 to get away from them.

13 I would say that there's a very, very
14 simple fact here when it comes to whether or not this
15 is our national interest. Canada is going to get
16 this product to market. It can either come through
17 America through the Keystone XL pipeline, down into
18 Port Arthur where they're holding similar hearings
19 just right now, or it can go west through another
20 pipeline and go onto barges, and go to the Asian
21 markets; and that does not benefit the United States
22 of America.

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1 So in terms of national interest, Keystone
2 XL is in our favor, and I urge you all to approve it.
3 Thank you so much.

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 Speaker No. 24.

6 MR. BLISS: Hello. My name is Lowell
7 Bliss. Welcome to Kansas. I'm pleased to speak in
8 opposition to the Keystone people on behalf of Kansas
9 Interfaith Power & Light. My faith community, my
10 church, is Faith Evangelical Free Church of
11 Manhattan, Kansas, where I am chair of the Elder
12 Board.

13 I wish to alert everyone to a growing
14 movement of creation care within the Evangelical
15 Church. We are convinced that those who believe God
16 created the earth should be the first to take care of
17 it. I refer you to the Time Magazine online story of
18 last Friday, detailing the Evangelical Environmental
19 Network's opposition to the Trane Act. How can we be
20 asked to support job creation which ignores the
21 mercury poisoning of unborn children?

22 I am married to a Canadian woman who lived

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1 a portion of her childhood in Northern Alberta. We
2 have many dear family friends there, some involved in
3 the oil industry. I can sincerely wish them the
4 best, because the tar sands are not the best; not for
5 them, nor their children, not for Canada, the U.S.,
6 or the planet.

7 Of course Canada is a wonderful, sovereign
8 nation and we won't presume to tell them what to do;
9 but for decades we have implored the Brazilian
10 government not to destroy the Amazon rain forest. We
11 showed them the scientific evidence is the Amazon is
12 the lungs of the entire planet. Similarly, the
13 Canadian government asked us to regulate our Great
14 Lakes industries, showing us incontrovertible
15 evidence that sulfur dioxide from our emissions was
16 causing acid rain and damaging their forests, lakes
17 and fisheries.

18 We can ask the Canadians to keep bitumen,
19 this dirtiest of fossil fuel, this largest of Carbon
20 dioxide emitters in the ground. We can certainly
21 choose not to enable and encourage their development
22 of the tar sands through the Keystone pipeline.

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1 The tar sands of Alberta are not so much
2 about oil as they are about what George W. Bush has
3 called "our addiction to oil." Why else would we
4 perpetuate such an ecological disaster except for the
5 fact that we can't help ourselves. The Houston
6 refineries -- and by implication, all of us -- are
7 the junkies. The Keystone pipeline is the syringe,
8 and the tar sands are in essence no different than a
9 meth lab. There's no argument that there's plenty of
10 money to be made in addiction.

11 To change the addiction metaphor, and
12 maybe to get some comic relief, let me lead you my
13 favorite word picture of the tar sands; this from Rob
14 Hopkins of the Transition Towns movement. He
15 explains how conventional drilling of sweet crude
16 oil, such as we've known to date, is like standing at
17 the bar, while a barman pours you pints direct from
18 the cask at the cellar. Tar sands, quote "Are akin
19 to arriving at the pub to find that the beer is all
20 off, but so desperate are you for a drink that you
21 begin to fantasize that in the 30 years this pub has
22 been open for business, the equivalent of 3,000 pints

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1 have been spilled on this carpet."

2 So you design a process whereby you boil
3 up the carpet in order to extract the beer again. It
4 is the desperate, futile action of an alcoholic
5 unable to imagine life without the object of his
6 addiction, and is only viable because oil prices are
7 high and natural gas prices are cheap.

8 In our drunken stupor, no bar room song is
9 sung more lustily than job creation, job creation.
10 Why do these jobs never seem to materialize in the
11 quantity that are promised? Why do these jobs never
12 seem to last longer than the tax breaks and corporate
13 subsidies that the public sector supplies? And I
14 have no problem including Solyndra in this nefarious
15 number.

16 We might learn a thing from mountain top
17 removal coal mining. When the coal industry wants to
18 invest in new jobs, they mean for us to issue new
19 permits and buy them new drag lines. But a drag line
20 only uses a couple people to operate. Around 1950
21 there were 150,000 coal miners in West Virginia. And
22 now there are less than 15,000. They're producing

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1 relatively the same amount of coal.

2 So who's pocketing the profit? Not our
3 working families. And as for climate change, what
4 about jobs for our children and our grandchildren?
5 What about jobs for the people of Joplin or the flood
6 victims of Irene or the drought and wildfire victims
7 of West Texas? The pusher doesn't care for the
8 junkie, but the church does, and so should our
9 president and the U.S. State Department. Thank you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 25.

12 MR. ROWLEY: Greetings to the officials of
13 the U.S. Department of State. My name is Mitch
14 Rowley, I am a 27-year member of Labor's Local 1290,
15 and Labor's International Union in North America.

16 As a lifelong construction worker and
17 taxpayer, I am avid supporter of the XL project to
18 help reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Also with
19 the current state of unemployment in the United
20 States, the XL project will create thousands of good
21 jobs and tax revenue for the continued life span of
22 the people. Hundreds of laborers, 1290 members,

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1 actively participated in the construction of the
2 initial phase of the Keystone pipeline, which brought
3 millions of dollars to the local economy.

4 Let it be known that the Labor's Local
5 1290 supports the Keystone XL project and hopes the
6 Department of State will approve the permit. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 26.

10 MS. NORTON: I'm Rita Norton, I'm a
11 private citizen.

12 Thank you, Ms. Hobgood, Mr. Stewart,
13 citizens, Kansas officials and union representatives.
14 I'm especially happy to see the significant union
15 representation here.

16 In the interests of jobs and justice,
17 little is more important than unions, whether the
18 jobs from this project are building pipelines or
19 electric grids or wind turbines. I hope those jobs
20 are union.

21 I'm concerned about safe drinking water,
22 safe air, and about the need to reduce carbon levels

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1 in the earth's atmosphere. Also, I happen to own
2 property in Montgomery County, Kansas, where there's
3 some fracturing for coal bed methane.

4 I understand that you have confidence in
5 the safety of cutting-edge technology that
6 potentially would be applied to the building of the
7 Keystone XL pipeline. I shouldn't assume that that
8 new pipeline will leak just because other pipelines
9 have leaked; leaks from the existing Keystone and
10 Enbridge pipelines have been documented.

11 Nevertheless, perhaps new technology can truly
12 prevent future leaks from affecting rivers and
13 aquifers and ground water along the route from
14 Western Canada and to the Gulf Coast.

15 My greater concern is the use of the
16 Alberta tar sands themselves as a source of crude
17 from petroleum. Exploration of that remote, Florida-
18 sized region of Canada revealed that a mix of crude,
19 bitumen and sand could be fractured from deep in the
20 earth and processed into a low grade of oil. But
21 development of the tar sands was postponed because of
22 the economic cost of recovering it.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Excuse me. Excuse me for
2 interrupting. Can you speak up a little more? I
3 don't think everyone in the room can hear you. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. NORTON: Development of the tar sands
6 was postponed because of the economic cost of
7 recovering it.

8 The cost was considered prohibitive. But
9 as the price of oil rose, those economic costs seemed
10 less significant. And like the deep water drilling
11 that also had once seemed too expensive, second and
12 third looks at the potential for this very large tar
13 sands reservoir of low-grade oil looked better.
14 Profits finally could offset the cost of exploiting
15 the resource.

16 But the costs are more than just dollars.
17 Millions of gallons of fresh water are required for
18 the fracturing process. Promises are made to develop
19 new methods for recycling that water, but that which
20 is recycled is rarely of quality comparable to the
21 original.

22 The release of carbon, that from the

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1 fossil fuels that must be used to recover tar sands
2 as well as the carbon from the huge new supply of low
3 grade tar sands oil will multiply exponentially. By
4 building the Keystone XL pipeline, regardless of
5 whether or not it leaks, we lock ourselves in to ever
6 greater destruction of our homes' atmosphere.

7 When does the so-called recovery of fossil
8 fuels become prohibitively expensive? Literally? A
9 bunch of years ago, calculated by our changing sense
10 of the conveniences that we demand. Literally, a
11 bunch of years ago before extreme weather events
12 started to become the new normal. Continuing to
13 increase our ecological as well as financial debt to
14 the earth's atmosphere and to civilization is
15 foolhardy. Depending on cutting-edge technology to
16 magically make things well again is even moreso.

17 May you conscientiously reject the
18 Keystone XL pipeline for its dangerous potential for
19 harming the earth, and realize that the decision can
20 give civilization a better chance to thrive. Thank
21 you very much.

22 (Applause)

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you. And we have
2 Speaker 27, and if you can speak into the mic, that
3 would be great. Thank you.

4 MS. WIGGINS: My name is Terry Wiggins,
5 I'm from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I'm speaking today
6 as a private citizen.

7 "Mom, why didn't you do this before?"
8 Those were the words of my daughter a few years ago
9 when she came home from college and saw me working to
10 protect our earth home. Though I didn't have a good
11 answer for her at the time, clearly I had been busy
12 having a career and raising a child. And now I'm a
13 grandmom to her two beautiful children. And I so
14 want them to grow up in a world that they see healing
15 from what we've been doing to it.

16 How could we trash our home and expect
17 them to live in it? Why wouldn't we want to learn to
18 live well, without burning so much fossil fuels? The
19 idea of building this pipeline truly terrifies me.
20 Tapping into the tar sands, among other evils, would
21 release the biggest amount of carbon dioxide to be
22 found anywhere in the world outside of Saudi Arabia,

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1 and doing that means our climate would become way
2 more chaotic than it has already been lately.

3 I realize that the tar sands are already
4 being developed by Canada. This action is harming
5 the First Nations people who live there and is
6 destroying their pristine forest land. Both are
7 wrong. All I can do today is to ask that the United
8 States government refuse to allow oil companies to
9 build this pipeline.

10 Not only would such an action slow down
11 exploitation of the tar sands, it would also lessen
12 the destruction sure to occur to our lands and waters
13 in this country, from leaks and from habitat
14 destruction. The environmental impact statement is
15 biased toward building the project. I found that
16 seemingly factual statements in it are actually false
17 assumptions.

18 Let me give two brief examples: The
19 first, on page 11 of the Executive Summary, which
20 states that the demand for Canadian heavy crude oil
21 at Gulf Coast refineries would not be affected by
22 fuel efficiency in the adoption of alternative fuels.

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1 This in essence is saying that Gulf oil refineries
2 have excess capacity, and that it is government's
3 role to keep them busy.

4 This is wrong on so many levels it is hard
5 for me to know where to begin. So for now, I'll just
6 say that I reject the assumption that we need to burn
7 more fossil fuels or to keep these particular
8 refineries operating at capacity.

9 The second example is on page 15 of the
10 Executive Summary. It refers to the Department of
11 Energy's analysis of lifecycle greenhouse gas
12 emissions. It states that the oil sands emissions
13 will be 17 percent higher than one benchmark and 2
14 percent higher than another. I reject the notion
15 that any increase in greenhouse gas emissions is
16 acceptable. In fact, we must reduce them.

17 I realize that many people who are in
18 favor of building the pipeline favor it because of
19 the jobs it would create. I would remind them that
20 these jobs are temporary jobs. We could put the
21 money instead into green jobs, which would be
22 permanent jobs; all the while improving life for all

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1 people.

2 Instead of sending jobs overseas, the U.S.
3 can and should be a leader. It should lead the
4 development of alternative energy technologies, which
5 will be the future of our energy. It would be in our
6 interest to promote learning how to be more efficient
7 with energy and to use less fossil fuels. Building
8 this pipeline is not in the interest of our children
9 and grandchildren, nor in the interest of our planet
10 or our nation.

11 Let's be the moral leader in creating a
12 healthy world for the next generation. Thank you.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 PARTICIPANT: 28.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Yes, and can you state your
16 name and affiliation.

17 MR. BRUNIN: My name is James Brunin, and
18 I'm from 1290. And today the anti-pipeline people
19 have taken the moral high ground, that we're
20 polluting and carbon is a pollutant, carbon dioxide,
21 but I would like to say carbon dioxide, as the son of
22 a farmer, makes your crops grow. So the more carbon

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1 dioxide we have in the atmosphere, the more poor
2 people in the world like in India right now, who are
3 starving, will be able to eat because there will be
4 more food.

5 I would also like to say that everybody
6 talked about China, and we don't want to pollute our
7 land. This oil, when it goes to China, it doesn't
8 come through here; it's going to go through British
9 Columbia and it's going to go directly to China.

10 The manufacturing in China is much, much
11 worse than in the United States. The EPA doesn't have
12 any handle over there, and the country's literally
13 drowning or being polluted, just like in the Soviet
14 Union. They didn't have time for ecology; they had
15 to build socialism. Well, China is building their
16 infrastructure; they don't have time to be clean
17 about anything. They want to build the country, make
18 a lot of money, and be a world leader.

19 We need to not only process the soil and
20 send it to Europe; we sell diesel fuel to Europe
21 because most of the Mercedes and Porsches -- or
22 Mercedes and Audis and BMWs in Europe run on diesel.

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1 The Europeans had a tax ratio where they encouraged
2 the use of diesel because it's more fuel-efficient;
3 you get 25 percent to 40 percent more miles per
4 gallon with a diesel engine. And people are starting
5 to buy diesels over here, too. We are starting to
6 use energy much more efficiently than we have in the
7 past.

8 Manufacturing in China is polluting the
9 world. They build several new coal plants every week
10 and they spew out a lot of mercury and a lot of other
11 stuff; they don't have bag houses on them like they
12 have down at Lawrence and up at Jeffrey. And another
13 thing, when we manufacture here, we also are making
14 jobs for the people who live here, the hoi polloi,
15 you know the people who work for a living.

16 A lot of environmentalists, it seems to
17 me, are people like Al Gore and Barbara Streisand.
18 And Barbara Streisand lectured people about turning
19 their air conditioner down, and she had six or seven
20 homes and they all were kept at 70 degrees so if she
21 decided to drop in somewhere, it was congenial for
22 her. Al Gore lectures us about our carbon

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1 footprint. It's awful big and we're wasting a lot of
2 energy, and it turns out that Al Gore has a foot
3 that's larger than any 25 people in this room. He
4 uses more energy than all of us or most of us put
5 together, and yet he's lecturing us. One of the
6 reasons he's lecturing, he would make a lot of money
7 on carbon trading.

8 As a matter of fact in Iceland a few years
9 ago, he was going to make a speech about carbon
10 trading, and then the East Anglia University thing
11 blew up, and they found out these scientists had --
12 objective scientists -- you know, whenever we say
13 'scientists' these people are pure and they don't lie
14 about anything. Well, it turns out they had been
15 sending memos to each other about how to suppress
16 information about pollution; that it wasn't nearly as
17 bad, that global warming wasn't from humans, they
18 wanted to get rid of that viewpoint.

19 The amount of global warming that we have
20 from humans is I think negligible, and it's arguable.
21 Scientists do not agree that carbon dioxide is a
22 pollutant that's causing global warming. The

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1 greatest global warming gas happens to be water
2 vapor. Are we going to get all the water vapor out
3 of the world? Because if we do, we're not going to
4 have any rain through the Midwest and the Ogallala
5 reservoir is going to be depleted in a hurry.

6 We have to have a benefit and cost ratio
7 that is reasonable, that when something cost a
8 fortune, we have to have some benefit from it, and
9 this is being unreasonable with the pipeline. You
10 know, we can't have it because it's bad, it adds
11 carbon to the world. This carbon is going to be
12 added regardless. If it's added over here when they
13 refined it down in Port Arthur down in Texas, it's
14 going to be a lot more beneficial to the atmosphere
15 there, which carries it all over the world than if
16 they refine it in China.

17 And Obama has something to think about.
18 He has laborers who want jobs and then he has eco-
19 people on the far left who don't want any kind of
20 pollution, and they're against jobs. They say "Yes,
21 we're for jobs, but we're not for the jobs that you
22 do." Well, these are the jobs that we do, and

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1 somebody's going to do it; it's going to be done
2 somewhere. If it's done in this country, it will be
3 done with a lot less pollution than if it's done in
4 China.

5 And finally, somebody talked about a Prius
6 and a Hummer, and I thought that was pretty
7 interesting. Again, this brings me back to: carbon
8 dioxide is not evil. Carbon dioxide is good. The
9 more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere the better
10 crops will grow. Historically, scientists know this.
11 And in times of warmth, for instance when Greenland
12 was settled because the earth warmed up, the polar
13 bears survived and people had a good time.

14 Now we're going to have a good time, too,
15 if we pass this.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 29.

18 MR. WAWYZNICK: Thank you. My name is
19 Claus Wawyznick, I'm with the Sierra Club, the
20 Thomas R. Benton Group, which is Kansas City,
21 Missouri.

22 The environmental devastation through the

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1 mining in Canada would affect the people, the
2 wildlife, and the environment in immense ways. It
3 would be very detrimental to the environment up
4 there.

5 Also the potential scale of the pollution
6 by the pipeline would be devastating because of the
7 carbon dioxide emissions coming out of the
8 extraction. The oil contains a lot of CO2 and this
9 would contribute to the existing climate -- the
10 greenhouse gases.

11 Also, there are several national security
12 issues with the pipeline; it's a single point of
13 failure all the way across the nation, and also the
14 refineries would be impacted by the hurricanes more
15 that are also going to be stronger and stronger over
16 time because of an increased climate change. So it's
17 a little bit problematic from that perspective.

18 Also because of the increased CO2
19 emissions from the oil that's being refined, it would
20 -- well, overall engage us in increased global
21 temperatures; it would also create more droughts in
22 the Midwest, which would also not be so good for the

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1 farmers, because we've had some hot -- this was a
2 really hot summer, and the last several years we've
3 had severe droughts in areas, and we're going to have
4 to get used to more droughts in the Midwest and it's
5 going to impact our food source.

6 We should instead of spending our money
7 and a lot of energy on putting the pipeline in, we
8 should be looking at alternatives which would be not
9 based on fossil fuels but renewable energy like wind
10 and solar, geothermal -- there are other
11 alternatives; we don't have to create more greenhouse
12 gas emissions. Thank you very much.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Speaker No. 30.

15 MR. O'MARA: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Mike O'Mara, I reside in St. Louis but I'm also a
17 homeowner and taxpayer from Manhattan, Kansas. I
18 serve as International Representative of the United
19 Association representing over 13,000 members in
20 Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, and one of the
21 arms of that is our Pipeliners, which is the strong
22 arm of our industry.

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1 I have also served for the past ten and a
2 half years as an elected member of the St. Louis
3 County Council, representing over 140,000 county
4 residents. The geographic boundaries of my district
5 include Civil War Museum properties, the confluence
6 of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, Louis and
7 Clark Exploration Trail, and a uniquely recognized
8 geological area which consists of underground streams
9 and caverns.

10 We have also preserved historical
11 community of the early Spanish and French settlers
12 and designated archaeological sites, where digs still
13 take place and numerous Native American artifacts
14 have been uncovered.

15 I feel it is my responsibility to
16 represent the constituents in my community, and also
17 to protect the environment. A major pipeline runs
18 from Wood River, Illinois underneath the areas
19 mentioned above, to Lambert-St. Louis International
20 Airport with no negative impact. The TransCanada
21 Keystone XL project promises to create thousands of
22 good paying jobs, financed entirely with private

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1 funds and addresses the old age dilemma of dependency
2 on foreign oil.

3 Based on my personal background and
4 experience with the impact of pipelines, I have no
5 reservations in requesting the State Department to
6 permit the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline project
7 to move forward. Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 31.

10 MS. WOJIK: Hello, my name is Eva Wojik,
11 I'm a writer and a researcher, and I am an artist,
12 and I follow Indigenous issues regarding the
13 environmental impact and other historical issues.

14 One of the things I want to say is that we
15 talk about, it is one pipeline, it is an
16 interconnected thing, it does not exist by itself,
17 and it's development of the tar sands, which is a
18 development that is the size of Great Britain, and
19 puts out enough carbon that equals what we currently
20 emit now; that is a worldwide problem for all of us,
21 because we live in a closed environmental system; so
22 what affects one affects all of us.

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1 The people, the indigenous communities who
2 live south of the current tar sands development,
3 which is where this oil that will come through this
4 pipeline will carry, have already been impacted by
5 their oil, their air, their soil, their water being
6 contaminated. They have high rates of cancer, and
7 these have not been addressed by anyone. No one has
8 followed it; they've been fighting it for years. So
9 you can find their information on the Indigenous
10 Environmental Network.

11 Also you talk about a carbon imprint; we
12 are already past the safe limit of 350 points per
13 million, we are up to 390. This is very difficult to
14 come down. You cannot breathe oil. You cannot drink
15 oil. It will get into your food supply, and it is
16 already there. And as far as the industry itself and
17 its safety record, I look at what has happened in
18 Ecuador and Chevron's refusal to clean up its knowing
19 leak contamination of that environment. Also to the
20 Niger Delta, and so what has happened in the Gulf of
21 Mexico with BP where they still adamantly refuse to
22 address the living needs of the people directly

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1 impacted. So the industry itself is held suspect.

2 And in regard to its job creation, you
3 need only to look at its investment plan that it
4 sends to the people that it deals with, and that oil
5 is not for domestic use; that is for export, that is
6 what they tell themselves in the industry. This is
7 available to everybody in the room.

8 So you want your jobs? Why not, why are
9 we not developing the solar panels that are already
10 being done in China, and in our countries. Why are
11 we not developing wind, which is clean. The
12 transition to these sources of energy would create
13 long term jobs instead of short term jobs, and you
14 can see that by the people of South Dakota who have
15 already found out that those jobs brought by the
16 pipeline are only for a particular point of time; and
17 those resources are very limited. Your restaurants,
18 your hotels and everything else that comes is only
19 for a few months until these people live.

20 And you want to talk about the industry
21 and its qualities? Well, my brother was hired by
22 some contractor to work on the Keystone pipeline.

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1 Take note: My brother is totally unqualified, by his
2 own admission, to work on any element of this
3 pipeline. He's not alone. The rest of the people,
4 the 30-man crew, have different elements of
5 construction experience. My brother's a small
6 farmer.

7 Do you want to talk about climate change?
8 The impact. You try being on a small farm this last
9 July, with 30 days of drought, 100-plus temperatures,
10 and do you know what happens? This is not normal for
11 this area. This is Southern Missouri which is only
12 three hours south of here. And that was not good.

13 Okay, so we already have, if you look,
14 from the larger impact of what is going on globally
15 to what is happening; if you pay attention you just
16 observe what is happening at a local level? You can
17 look at it from the small scale to the large scale;
18 and we do live in a closed system. What happens in
19 the tar sands and the development up there, which
20 pollutes the air already is something that affects
21 everyone around the globe, because that pollution
22 does not stay in one place; it enters into the

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1 atmosphere, it enters into your ground water, it
2 enters into your soil, it enters into the food chain,
3 and that affects everyone.

4 So I stand in direct opposition. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 Speaker No. 32.

8 MR. GARDOS: Phil Gardos, Kansas City. I
9 represent a small group of guys who get together and
10 we call ourselves the Men's Group in Wyandotte and
11 Johnson County. We mostly talk about personal
12 affairs, and we get around to local issues and
13 current affairs.

14 We had a number of concerns about the
15 pipeline, most of them have been covered. The
16 environmental report hasn't been mentioned; one of
17 the issues was most of the savings, most of the
18 national security, getting off oil dependency was
19 really due to conservation efforts as opposed to the
20 pipeline; and it did appear to us that the tar sands
21 oil would end up trans-Pacific rather than in the
22 U.S. system.

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1 Another one of our concerns was, given the
2 fragility and the importance of the Ogallala Aquifer,
3 the issue of liability should, God forbid some
4 accident happen, isn't all that clear to us. We
5 noticed that Congress in 2005 somehow eliminated
6 liability for the companies doing fracking, exempted
7 them from the liability concerns of the Clean Air and
8 Clean Water Act. We certainly wouldn't want to see
9 this kind of thing continued to the pipeline people.

10 Should there be an accident, who is
11 liable? Is this an unfunded government pick up
12 again, is it an implied government insurance for
13 them? And then even should the pipeline be
14 successful in terms of delivering the tar sands to
15 refineries that would then probably process it for
16 foreign use, they would accelerate the production of
17 global warming agents; and thus we bring up the one
18 foreign affairs issue that we wanted to mention; and
19 that is one of the U.S.'s continued efforts is to
20 enforce human rights around the world; and one of
21 the, if not the most important human right is the
22 right to life. And any effort like this that in a

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1 substantial way accelerates global warming is
2 actually going to kill more people.

3 So overall, we deem this project to be a
4 pro-death project that should be rejected on that
5 grounds. Thank you.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 Speaker No. 33.

8 MS. PETTENGILL: My name is Lynate
9 Pettengill, I'm here as a concerned citizen and also
10 as a fifth generation Kansan.

11 I know that we are facing very tough
12 economic times and the prospect of jobs associated
13 with this pipeline is seductive. But we need to keep
14 in mind the following: TransCanada has promised tens
15 of thousands of jobs with this project. But the
16 official number that would actually produce is fewer
17 than 200 local jobs, while endangering thousands of
18 agricultural and ranching jobs if there were a spill
19 near the Ogallala Aquifer.

20 In 2010 when the first Keystone pipeline
21 was built, only 100 jobs were created for Kansans. I
22 know we've had many union men and women here today;

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1 think of how many quality jobs could be created for
2 these hard-working individuals if we were to truly
3 develop our renewable resources here, tapping into
4 the nation's second largest wind capacity, which is
5 found in Kansas.

6 While Governor Brownback earlier today
7 said we'd be able to use these fossil fuels in
8 Kansas, they actually won't stop in the state but
9 will keep flowing down all the way to Texas. Then
10 almost all this oil will be shipped out of the U.S.,
11 we'll still be sending one million dollars each
12 minute to OPEC. This does not create energy
13 independence for us, but it does put our Ogallala
14 Aquifer at great risk.

15 Tar sands release 17 percent more carbon
16 pollution than conventional oil. This year the
17 Keystone pipeline has spilled 12 times in its first
18 year of operation. I repeat: It spilled 12 times
19 this first year of operation. Even if we build it
20 right, accidents happen. What options would Kansas
21 farmers and ranchers have if there's a spill and the
22 Ogallala Aquifer is fouled? An aquifer which

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1 provides approximately 30 percent of the nation's
2 agricultural water and drinking water to 2 million
3 Americans.

4 I am asking you to show bold leadership by
5 denying TransCanada the presidential permit.
6 Keystone XL is not in our national interest. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 34.

10 MR. FAST: Yes, I'm Kirk Fast. I'm here
11 representing myself and my family, particularly my 13
12 and 16 year old sons, and generations yet unborn.

13 From the confederation of the seven tribes
14 of the Iroquois Nation prior to the formation of this
15 country, they did have a guiding principle that went,
16 that in our every deliberation we must consider the
17 effects of our decisions upon the next seven
18 generations.

19 With that in mind, thinking our energy
20 wants greatly exceed our energy needs. Our addiction
21 to oil has led us into too many unnecessary conflicts
22 with other cultures and countries. Now that we have

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1 gathered nearly all of the easily accessible oil --
2 all the low-hanging fruit, as it were -- now we
3 explore for oil where our energy and oil lust far
4 exceeds our technology for safely extracting the
5 diminishing oil that still exists within our planet.

6 We've ruined the seabeds of the Gulf of
7 Mexico, and now we're asked to support the
8 destruction of pristine rain forest and wetlands in
9 the Pacific Northwest in addition to the pipeline
10 risks across our own land. And the water supplies
11 across this proposed route through Kansas.

12 When is enough enough? We do need to work
13 for more energy conservation on each and every level
14 of our consumption as well as alternative ways of
15 generating the energy we actually do need. If we had
16 spent a fraction of the money that has gone on with
17 corrupting other oil-bearing cultures, locating
18 military bases on their lands and fighting wars to
19 secure their oil, we could have instead invested in
20 alternative energy productions and conservation, and
21 we could now be probably much, much closer if not
22 fully energy-independent.

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1 Again, when is enough enough? Let's not
2 support this plan. I respectfully request that we do
3 not do that, and in accordance with the majority of
4 independent citizens who have been speaking here
5 today. It seems like the preponderance of supporters
6 all have a dog in this hunt. Either they're going to
7 be employed by it or making money from it. It
8 certainly seems that the preponderance of citizens
9 that have come up to speak have all expressed a
10 similar desire. And for you good folks that have to
11 sit up here and listen to all of our various
12 diatribes, I respect your patience and forbearance
13 and willingness to entertain our comments. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 Speaker No. 35.

17 MR. ALMON: Good afternoon, Madam Chair.

18 Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Michael
19 Almon, I'm from Lawrence, Kansas. I'm representing
20 myself, my ten year old son, and the rest of my
21 family.

22 In 1998, two notable petroleum geologists,

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1 Colin Campbell and Jean Laherrere wrote the book, The
2 End of Cheap Oil. Richard Henberg wrote of the same
3 phenomenon in 2003. And in 2006, the U.S. Department
4 of Energy report: "Peak Oil, the Tipping Point"
5 quoted Campbell and Laherrere saying, "The world is
6 not running out of oil; what our society does face
7 and soon is the end of abundant and cheap oil, on
8 which all industrial nations depend.

9 Then in 2007 the U.S. Government
10 Accountability Office reviewed data from many
11 sources; from the U.S. Department of Energy to the
12 German Institute of Geosciences, to the International
13 Energy Agency, the IEA, and concluded: Most studies
14 estimate that oil extraction will peak sometime
15 between now, 2007 and 2040.

16 Finally, the IEA chief economist himself
17 stated repeatedly in 2010 that 'the era of cheap oil
18 is over.' All these analysts were referring to
19 conventional petroleum, the light, sweet crude that
20 is near the surface and flows easily. This type of
21 crude could be extracted in the early 20th Century at
22 100 units obtained for each one unit expended. The

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1 energy return on energy invested, EROEI.

2 But with today's declining reserves, that
3 figure is down to only a 10:1 EROEI. Therefore
4 because the abundant and cheap oil is becoming
5 rapidly exhausted, globally, policymakers and markets
6 are turning to the difficult and expensive oil; the
7 deep water heavy oils, the oil shales, the tertiary
8 recovery projects and the tar sands bitumen.

9 As a nation that obtains about 40 percent
10 of its total energy from petroleum, a greater percent
11 than any other economic power, U.S. leaders feel
12 compelled to bite the bullet and risk disaster from
13 pursuing deep water and tar sands oils. The belief
14 is that our struggling economy cannot recover if this
15 life blood is curtailed.

16 But in truth and in purely economic terms,
17 the U.S. cannot afford to exploit these expensive
18 oils. The considerable contraction of the U.S.
19 economy is already compromising our ability to
20 service the interest on our national debt.

21 Professor Michael Claire of the University
22 of Massachusetts points out that oil as a factor of

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1 U.S. national debt is seldom mentioned. Consider
2 that the U.S. imports 50 to 60 percent of our oil,
3 according to the 2011 International Energy Outlook of
4 the Energy Information Administration of the U.S.
5 Department of Energy.

6 Professor Claire notes that we are sending
7 about one billion dollars every day to foreign oil
8 providers. I don't think any of us would disagree on
9 that fact. These payments constitute the single
10 biggest contribution to the country's balance of
11 payments deficit, and so is a major source of the
12 nation's economic weakness -- quoting Professor
13 Claire.

14 The Keystone XL people will not help to
15 satisfy the excessive dependence of the U.S. economy
16 on petroleum, because TransCanada's long term
17 contracts are overwhelmingly for the overseas
18 markets, not for U.S. markets.

19 And I digress from my prepared statement
20 here to point out that as many speakers this
21 afternoon who have pointed out that fact, that this
22 oil is not going to U.S. markets, it seems that

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1 speaker after speaker who keep claiming this will
2 reduce our dependence on foreign oil would by this
3 time be embarrassed to repeat that misleading non-
4 fact.

5 Continuing: And likewise, the Keystone XL
6 pipeline will do little for the U.S. debt burden,
7 either, because it will be Canada who exports the oil
8 from the duty-free zone of Port Arthur, Texas, with
9 no duty payments going to the United States at all.

10 Though the U.S. will gain little from the
11 TransCanada tar sands oil, the U.S. will bear the
12 full risk from the Keystone XL pipeline, a risk at
13 the hundreds of stream crossings, a risk for the
14 landowners who provide easements, a risk for the
15 Ogallala Aquifer and a risk of disasters for which
16 FEMA will pay, that ultimately will be we taxpayers.

17 As a U.S. citizen, I do not want to enter
18 into this bargain; this is not a bargain at all.
19 This represents a threat to our energy security and
20 our economy. Please recognize that the TransCanada
21 Keystone XL pipeline is not in the U.S. national
22 interest and deny the permit application. Thank you

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1 very much.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 Speaker No. 36.

4 You may begin.

5 MS. KARL: My name is Sarah Karl, I'm a
6 retired teacher. I am totally against anything
7 interfering with the Ogallala. I have heard only a
8 few people talk about it; it disturbs me greatly
9 because Governor Perry in Texas has just signed that
10 radioactive material will be buried very close to the
11 southern end of this.

12 This is deep down, it's our only pure
13 water in this section. I have been looking through
14 the Internet, I have seen nothing appearing about the
15 Ogallala unless in the last two weeks or so. The
16 environmentalists are mainly concerned about the tar
17 sands. I have the feeling that there's maybe two
18 people in here who have watched the documentary on
19 the First Nation people and how they have the cancers
20 increasing, in a town of 1300, 51 cancers? Tar sands
21 is not good.

22 This is the Department of State, aren't

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1 you? Have you watched the Calgary news where the
2 people are up and protesting against this dirty oil
3 being brought through Canada. Have you watched the
4 tar sands website, have you looked at it? Has anyone
5 here looked at it, outside of maybe three or four?

6 This is interfering with the wildlife, it
7 is totally producing fish that can't be eaten in the
8 streams up there, for the First Nation people. The
9 First Nation people are getting ready to protest in
10 Ottawa on September 29th, against this. They are
11 trying to get the First Nation people together to
12 protest this, because Canada is basically doing as we
13 did, and not respecting the treaties that they did
14 with the First Nation people. And if I, who have
15 only had a computer for two and a half months have
16 found this, I went on and I watched -- I've gone
17 through the e-mail, and it bothers me very much.

18 Isn't there anyone in the State Department
19 who can consult, who has the ability to have done the
20 environmental reports? Why did the State Department
21 hire Entrix, who consults for TransCanada, to do the
22 environmental report? This to me is amazing. Aren't

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1 our government employees trained enough to make the
2 environmental reports? Or is this a holdover from
3 Bush to pull in privacy? Does the State Department
4 truly lack the qualified staff to make an
5 environmental report?

6 Then it bothers me very much that two of
7 the ones, the one who is lobbying for TransCanada,
8 the one who is lobbying for tar sands, had been on
9 Hillary Clinton's electoral staff in 2008? I
10 skimmed through the e-mails, and it was Paul Elliot
11 wanting to introduce a TransCanada employee to
12 someone in the State Department. I find this very
13 disturbing, and then I heard someone mention on the
14 cleanup. Well, Lynn Jenkins, Pompeil Youth Camp and
15 Yoga, every one of our representatives voted for
16 House Resolution 1938, to excuse Keystone XL from
17 providing cleanup plans, should they spill into the
18 Ogallala.

19 I can't say that I'm against Keystone, but
20 I am against Keystone going through our Ogallala. I
21 am against the environmental groups who have totally
22 ignored the Ogallala until the last two weeks,

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1 because so much of our cattle and our crops are grown
2 on that. I think it was No. 13 who gave you an
3 extensive rendition of that. Thank you for your
4 time, and I am a very embarrassed citizen of this
5 country.

6 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

7 And Speaker No. 37, I want to extend my
8 apologies. We want to take just a couple minute
9 break, perhaps a five minute break for our wonderful
10 transcriber here, who probably needs to get up and
11 stretch.

12 So Kurt Chaffee, in five minutes we'll
13 start with you.

14 MS. KARL: Let's give them a round of
15 applause.

16 (Applause)

17 (Brief recess.)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Okay, if we can resume the
19 public meeting, with No. 37. And so that we don't
20 have a lull between numbers, if the next person can
21 come up so that again we can keep an even flow and
22 not have as much time between speakers, we'd really

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1 appreciate it.

2 Thank you. No. 37.

3 MR. CHAFFEE: Thank you for the
4 opportunity to provide testimony on the Keystone XL
5 project. My name is Kurt Chaffee, I live in
6 Carbondale, Kansas. I am the Vice President of the
7 Operating Engineers, Local 101.

8 The Keystone XL project will create
9 thousands of jobs in the construction at a time when
10 the industry really needs the boost. For much of the
11 last two years, the industry has had unemployment
12 levels over 20 percent. That's far and away the
13 highest unemployment of any sector. This project
14 will ignite the industry. After three years in the
15 permitting process, it's beyond time to move this
16 project forward.

17 Please find the Keystone XL project in the
18 national interest and approve the presidential permit
19 right away. American construction workers need to
20 get back on the job. Thank you for the meeting and
21 the opportunity to comment. I appreciate it.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 No. 38.

2 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you for allowing me to
3 speak to you today. My name is Richard Taylor, and I
4 serve as president of the Kansas State Building
5 Trades, and the business manager of the Plumbers and
6 Pipefitters Local 441.

7 On behalf of all 334,000 members of the
8 United Association and their families, I'm here to
9 share with you our position regarding the Keystone XL
10 pipeline.

11 Four of the most important questions
12 facing our nation today are: How can we create more
13 jobs? How can we increase our energy supply while
14 reducing our dependence on oil from the Middle East?
15 How can we further ensure our national security, and
16 how can we do all this and still protect our
17 environment?

18 The TransCanada Keystone XL project can
19 help answer all four of these questions, so perhaps
20 another important question should follow: How can we
21 say no to a project that can go a very long way in
22 answering each of these questions? The reality is we

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1 can't.

2 And something that's worth pointing out,
3 pipelines are the safest and most environmentally
4 sound methods for transporting petroleum products
5 that we have. It's been mentioned quite a bit today
6 about the 12 spills that have happened. All 12 of
7 those spills have happened in the pumping stations
8 above ground. The existing pipeline has been 100
9 percent spill-free.

10 There is no denying that we are going to
11 be dependent on oil for many decades, even as we
12 pursue our other sources of energy, most importantly
13 renewable sources. We are now competing directly for
14 oil as some of the fastest-growing economies in the
15 world; namely China and India, and we've all had
16 front row seats for the transformation still going on
17 in the Middle East, and none of us can say for
18 certain how this upheaval will affect our supply of
19 imported oil.

20 Keystone offers an opportunity to secure a
21 long term supply of oil from our nearest neighbor and
22 closest ally, Canada. It makes sense both from a

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1 cost perspective as well as a national securities
2 perspective. Moreover, Canada is going to develop
3 this resource. Whether we buy it or not, the oil is
4 coming out of the ground and if we don't take it,
5 China and India will.

6 We understand that this is a momentous
7 decision, we appreciate the concern of those who
8 worry about the integrity of our environment, we also
9 strongly believe that these fears are misplaced.
10 There are compelling reasons to grant this permit for
11 this project now; we ask that you do so. Thank you.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 39.

14 MR. URTON: Thank you. My name is Bill
15 Urton, a plumber and pipefitter for 33 years with
16 Local Union 441 in Kansas. Thank you for allowing me
17 to address this hearing. I'm a proud member of the
18 United Association. I represent 340,000 members and
19 their families, and that amounts to more than a
20 million American men, women and children who are part
21 of our larger extended United Association family.

22 Their future is what matters to me. I

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1 know that you are well aware of the State
2 Department's environmental impact statement and that
3 the Department's exhaustive investigation of the
4 Keystone pipeline XL project proved it will not have
5 any significant negative impact on our environment.

6 I want to talk to you today about what
7 importing this oil from Canada would mean to the
8 United States, to my fellow members and their
9 families. In fact, to every single person in this
10 country. Every minute of every day as a nation we
11 spend \$1 million on oil from the Middle East and
12 other not-so-friendly nations. In fact, our growing
13 dependence on foreign oil represents the largest
14 transfer of wealth from our country to other nations.
15 It simply cannot go on.

16 We now import 65 percent of our oil from
17 other nations. Last year we spent \$450 billion on
18 foreign oil. That money is gone forever. The
19 Keystone XL pipeline is the best opportunity we've
20 had for many generations to dramatically and
21 substantially reduce that dependence. Every member
22 of the United Association supports the development of

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1 alternative energy. We understand that this is
2 necessary to our future, but we also know that we are
3 many years, perhaps even decades, from making this a
4 reality.

5 In the meantime, we will continue to be
6 dependent on oil, gas and other fossil fuel sources.
7 The oil from our Alberta oil sands will come from our
8 closest neighbor and ally, and it will substantially
9 increase our refining capacity in Texas, where there
10 is a skilled work force ready to receive it.

11 We also believe that sending this oil to
12 an American refiner is safer and smarter than
13 offshore drilling in the Gulf region. Pipelines have
14 proven and have an unassailable track record as being
15 the safest and most efficient way to transport
16 petroleum products. We need this oil.

17 I want to ask you to consider also what
18 Keystone will do for our economy and for the American
19 people; it will create tens of thousands of jobs.
20 Over the course of its lifetime, it will create
21 hundreds of those of jobs, and we need those jobs.

22 Keystone has the potential to reinvigorate

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1 the American manufacturing sector through the
2 production of pipe and associated material and
3 equipment. We will need to make things here in this
4 country.

5 Keystone is the most scrutinized project
6 in recent memory. I can think of no other project
7 that has been reviewed more thoroughly than this one,
8 but that's fine with us because we know that this
9 project will be safe and environmentally sound.
10 That's how we build our pipelines.

11 There's no reason to withhold the permit
12 any longer; we need this pipeline and we need it now.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you,.

15 Speaker No. 40.

16 MR. MILLER: I'm Kirk Miller. I wear a
17 lot of hats; I'm a father, grandfather, a member of
18 Local 441, Plumbers and Pipefitters, a farmer.

19 Back in the late Seventies we had a one-
20 term president put a solar panel on the side of the
21 White House. The next president took it down, and
22 this has been the scene across the United States. We

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1 recognize there's a problem, and then we drop the
2 ball.

3 Back in this time frame, my father planted
4 10,000 walnut trees on a farm. He didn't talk green,
5 he acted. We see a lot of talking green up here, but
6 these people need to get off their duffs and plant
7 the trees.

8 I'm wanting to build a passive solar house
9 with a lot of geothermal in it, but I understand that
10 it's going to take a half mile of HDPE and -- which
11 is high density and medium density polyethylene pipe.
12 To get this pipe, it takes petroleum to make it.

13 In order for me to create a little -- to
14 get off the dependency of the oil and the
15 electricity, we've got to make -- we need this people
16 to free us of it down the road. The only way that
17 these people are going to -- that are talking about
18 all the windmills and everything else to get away
19 from it, they're going to have to invent the right
20 way that is economical, feasible to do it.

21 You can talk about it all you want; but
22 until it's economically feasible, it's not going to

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1 happen.

2 I notice there's a lot of construction
3 workers here, there's brother Teamsters, Laborers,
4 Operators and the United Association here. Why are
5 these people off? We had a powerhouse that was put
6 off a year, and through that year some laws have
7 changed, and now it cost us two years because we've
8 got all these unemployed people.

9 It's easy to get unemployed union
10 construction workers here because of the economy. We
11 need these jobs. We need the oil to create, so we
12 can get away from it. We've got to use our heads and
13 build the geothermals; but we need the plastics and
14 the materials from the oil to do it. So we need the
15 pipeline to get away from it. Thank you.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 Speaker No. 41.

18 MR. FORAKER: I'm Jeff Foraker with Foley
19 Equipment Company.

20 Foley equipment is a locally owned and
21 operated Caterpillar dealership in the State of
22 Kansas. We currently employ over 540 people across

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1 the State. Foley had had business strategy to do
2 business with the pipeline industry. The south
3 central, southwestern part of the state is rich with
4 oil and natural gas.

5 In 2008, Foley expanded their business
6 strategy to serve the pipeline industry outside of
7 the State of Kansas through equipment rentals and
8 maintenance of equipment, further increasing jobs and
9 increasing taxable income.

10 In a time when the economy is in a
11 difficult business climate, Foley has be able to
12 maintain and grow jobs. The growth that we have had
13 may not have been sustainable for not this increase
14 in activity with the expansion of these pipelines.
15 The pipeline work proposed will have jobs and
16 financial impact on the State of Kansas; and on
17 behalf of myself and Foley Equipment, we support the
18 proposed Keystone pipeline.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Speaker No. 42.

21 MR. TODD: Good afternoon, my name is John
22 Todd. I live in Wichita, Kansas. I am here as a

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1 private citizen and as a volunteer coordinator for
2 Americans For Prosperity-Kansas. I am here to
3 express my support for the Keystone project.

4 The Keystone project is not a pipeline
5 issue. Rather, it is a political issue designed by
6 environmentalists to stop the use of fossil fuels.
7 There is an interesting article in this morning's
8 Wichita Eagle and I'd like to quote from it.

9 University of Nebraska hydrologist Jim
10 Goeke, a retired professor who has studied
11 the pipeline proposal for years, believes
12 it's safe. He says the aquifer is
13 composed of layers of loose sand,
14 sandstone, silt and gravel that would
15 impede the spread of an oil leak.
16 Goeke, who has no formal role in the
17 project, said he expects pipeline
18 opponents to make an impassioned case that
19 the aquifer would be endangered, but he
20 doesn't buy it.
21 "I'd be comfortable if the pipeline was
22 defeated on the basis of good, solid

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1 science and not emotion," ... A lot of
2 people love and treasure the aquifer, and
3 they're concerned the entire aquifer is at
4 risk. And that just isn't factual."

5 America's economic
6 prosperity depends on energy independence. A people
7 is the most economical and safest way to transport
8 crude oil. The Keystone pipeline needs to be built.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 43

12 MS. KOEHN: My name is Shirley Koehn, I am
13 from Wichita, Kansas and I am here with Americans For
14 Prosperity, but I'm actually speaking as a concerned
15 citizen, a mother, a grandmother, a former teacher, a
16 former retail business owner now retired, and I guess
17 I'm a citizen-activist.

18 I'm familiar with some of the basic
19 procedures in extracting oil from oil sands and gas
20 from shale, and that's through my own research. I'm
21 also aware of the many efforts of the EPA to wield
22 control over American's livelihood. I've also done

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1 quite a bit of research into global warming, which is
2 now climate change under another name, and I have to
3 certainly agree that CO2 is a plant builder, and this
4 is one of the things I came up worried about very
5 early in this whole scenario about global warming,
6 because if you are a farming background or you know
7 anything about plant biology, you know that the
8 plants use CO2. So if we erased all the CO2, we
9 wouldn't have any plants. Then where would we be?

10 And humans are a species on this earth,
11 and it seems to me that the EPA is very concerned
12 about all kinds of little fish and all kinds of
13 organisms. Almost every week I pick up a newspaper
14 and I see that there's some new species that has been
15 discovered.

16 Man was not increasing CO2 when the
17 dinosaurs left this earth. So I have to question
18 that we're really damaging this earth in terms of our
19 atmosphere all that much. The issue here with the
20 pipeline I think is a political issue, not an oil
21 issue or not something about -- well, I think it's a
22 political issue.

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1 Why are we supporting companies like
2 Petrobras, in Brazil? We backed a loan of \$175
3 billion, I think it was, for them to drill offshore;
4 and yet we can't do this here? But we're enabling
5 somebody else to do it? This doesn't seem logical to
6 me.

7 Back to the global warming for just a
8 moment. We need to return to real science. They've
9 admitted already that a lot of the models were not
10 accurate, the data put in, and several with the U.N.
11 and also with NASA, have admitted that they had
12 flawed data. We need to return to real science where
13 conclusions are based on findings instead of starting
14 out with conclusions and then setting up a model to
15 verify our predetermined conclusion.

16 Here in the United States we have oil
17 sands as they do in Canada, in the Bakken area. And
18 I have to question why we're not developing that more
19 than we are, and then we'd have our own oil here and
20 not even have to be importing as much. There is
21 enough oil there to last for hundreds of years.

22 I urge you to move ahead with the Keystone

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1 pipeline. Thank you for listening and for being
2 here.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 44 has submitted her comments
5 in writing, and so if we can now go to Speaker No.
6 45.

7 MR. ELSTER: My name is Toby Elster from
8 Wichita, Kansas. I'm a petroleum geologist, have
9 spent my lifetime drilling oil and gas wells and
10 exploring mostly in Kansas and Midcontinent. A few
11 places -- my talk's changed this morning on two
12 items, so I may be a little hesitant.

13 One was on the map that was handed out
14 here; the other was an article that appeared in the
15 Wichita Eagle early this morning; and let me
16 straighten out a few things. I've been a geologist
17 all my life, and I learned more about geology that I
18 didn't want to know this morning, the issue of tar
19 sands, they all talk about tar sands. I can take you
20 down to Southeast Kansas and show you tar sands.

21 What's the difference between tar sands
22 down there and the ones in Canada? Extent. Canada's

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1 tar sands are so extensive. I've seen estimates of
2 recoverable oil, not the New York Times's "oil in
3 place"; recoverable oil, a trillion barrels of oil.
4 In Kansas it's not economical to mine them and
5 recover the oil.

6 Somebody said something about using the
7 pipeline to export oil through Houston's port, the
8 Texas ports. She should go back and check her facts.
9 Millions of barrels of oil are coming in a day
10 through the Texas ports to fill the refineries.
11 Nobody's going to build a 1700-mile pipeline to
12 export oil to Houston when they can go across West
13 from the tar sands five or six hundred miles and find
14 a port on the Pacific. And by the way, China is
15 working on that.

16 Now let's get to the aquifer, the Ogallala
17 Aquifer. I don't think anybody understands. That is
18 not surface water or ground water. The surface of
19 the aquifer, and I didn't realize it extended -- but
20 I think it covers the third west part of Kansas,
21 Nebraska, Texas, down into Texas. It's a fresh water
22 aquifer that's fed off the Rocky Mountains. Average

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1 depth in Kansas of the aquifer is three to five
2 hundred feet.

3 I do not believe you could get one barrel
4 of oil or one gallon of oil into that aquifer, from
5 the surface. Or even four feet deep, as this
6 pipeline is going to be. That oil will be --
7 capillary action will spread that out there, and you
8 could not put that much oil into the ground before
9 they would turn off any kind of leak you had in that
10 pipeline. Capillary action takes everything out of
11 there; we get oil in the drilling pits every now and
12 then; you can't find it 10, 15 feet from it; we put
13 sometimes a barrel or two or three, and a barrel is
14 42 gallons of oil.

15 That is just malarky about the aquifer
16 being polluted by the pipeline, regardless of whether
17 it leaks or not. By the way, anything the State
18 Department would like to know about the aquifer, all
19 I think you have to do is call the United States
20 Geological department, and they'll tell you anything
21 you want to know.

22 Now Kansas has at least a million miles of

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1 pipeline in the State, that runs from probably a half
2 inch in diameter to four feet in diameter. And if I
3 ever got one, I have had dozens of little notices
4 from companies that says, "Before you dig, call."
5 And I believe everybody around here knows what they
6 mean about that. So it's guarded by the way they fly
7 pipelines to look for leaks.

8 Now the talk I was going to give you
9 about, which as John mentioned was, this is not a
10 pipeline issue; this is a political issue. It's
11 political from top to bottom. It is a political
12 issue because our administration wants to kill fossil
13 fuel, they want to do away with it. Fossil fuel is
14 coal, crude oil, and natural gas the main parts. It
15 is 90 percent of our energy, and all they're going to
16 have to replace it with is alternate fuels.

17 Alternate fuels right now is a bankrupt
18 industry that cannot provide five percent of the
19 energy for the United States. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Speaker No. 46.

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1 MS. ESTES: Thank you very much. My name
2 is Susan Estes, and my affiliations today are those
3 of wife, mother and activist. And I'll start with
4 wife. This November it will be 20 years. And among
5 our age group, that's a big deal. I know there are
6 other people here who would tell me that's not much,
7 because they're on 40 and 50.

8 Anyway, recently my husband was blessed to
9 be elected the State Treasurer of Kansas and he is
10 the one who worries about the revenue issue that we
11 have going on, and this is a common topic of
12 discussion at our house. It would surprise many
13 people to know, when we talk about how badly we need
14 this revenue, and we need every single job that we
15 can get; one job makes a big world of difference. We
16 need this, because in July of 2010, the State of
17 Kansas ended their fiscal year with a little over
18 \$800 in their bank account. Not \$800 million, not
19 \$800,000, not even \$8,000, but \$800.

20 So I'd just like to reinforce that every
21 single job that we get out of this makes a difference
22 to somebody's family. Secondly, I'd like to talk

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1 about the family issue. I came here today with my
2 three children. You're going to meet one of them
3 next because he's the next speaker. And my husband
4 and I met in different states, but we spend a lot of
5 time thinking about where did we want to live and
6 what was important to us?

7 And my husband is a native Kansan; he was
8 lucky enough to be born here; I was smart enough to
9 move here. And we made this choice because we value
10 the rural life that we have here. We do live in
11 Wichita, but on the weekends -- not every weekend,
12 but most weekends -- we go to the family farm. My
13 husband is a fifth generation Kansan, the farm has
14 been in the family for over 100 year, and I love that
15 my kids get to experience that, and learn a real
16 worth ethic.

17 But at the same time we're here, we're
18 realizing that every year, more and more families are
19 concerned about your children leaving. And we want
20 to do everything that we can to keep Kansas a vibrant
21 economy and keep our families here. Some day I'd
22 like to be a grandmother and be able to be the older

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1 generation working on the farm with the kids.

2 So thirdly, I'd like to speak about being
3 an activist. I am vocal; I got out there -- so most
4 of my friends and people that I activate with know
5 that I'm here. So the first thing I'd like you to
6 know is I don't have a dog in the hunt; many of the
7 people who just spoke to you also don't have a dog in
8 the hunt, but we're here because we think this is
9 important. But not all of us could be here. I think
10 I have about 50 e-mails from people who said they
11 could not be here today, but they really support the
12 Keystone pipeline.

13 Some of them sent testimony with me, so
14 I'm going to turn that in. Others said "Let them
15 know I'm with you" and one of the testimonies I
16 thought was so outstanding that my son is going to,
17 that's going to be his testimony. Thank you very
18 much for your time.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Speaker No. 47.

21 MR. ESTES: Hello, my name is Brent Estes,
22 and I'm a resident. I'm here to read a letter from

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Karl Peterjohn, the Commissioner of the Third

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District and on the Board of the County Commissioners

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in Sedgwick County to Secretary Clinton. I quote:

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The U.S. economy needs a boost. We need

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to grow American jobs. The Keystone

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pipeline is a critical project that would

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significantly create billions of dollars

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in economic activity in the Kansas and the

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U.S. heartland. I am hopeful that this

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will be very helpful to Kansas companies

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that are trying to expand in these

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challenging economic times. I believe

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that this project will provide the

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foundation to create thousands of high-

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paying, permanent jobs as well as

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construction industry jobs.

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While this project is being constructed at

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the time when so many energy producing

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countries in the Middle East regularly

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express their hatred for the United

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States, a project that will strengthen the

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U.S. energy capabilities should be on the

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1 economic back track instead of being
2 hampered by red tape.

3 We need economic growth. This project
4 would be an important step forward as well
5 as strengthening our economic ties with
6 our important neighbor to the north,
7 Canada.

8 I urge you to approve the Keystone people
9 project as soon as possible.

10 Sincerely, Karl Peterjohn.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 48.

13 MR. VENN: I'm Larry Venn, I'm an American
14 citizen, here just with my questions.

15 I am in support of this Keystone pipeline
16 project, not only as a Kansan but as an American, at
17 this point in time. The job economy today is really
18 bad, and if we were to go up and develop the
19 pipefitters and all this, not only would it be going
20 up there and give them a job, but all the little
21 towns like our map, here it goes through Nebraska and
22 South Dakota -- each one of those little towns, they

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1 would go in there and spend their money, and it would
2 be like a band-aid to keep those little towns just
3 keep going. While the economy is down, it will just
4 keep them going. Just until things turn around a
5 little better, as we go through it.

6 I live in Derby, which is down by Wichita,
7 and I've watched this Keystone XL pipeline project
8 progress from just over by Udall up through Augusta.
9 And they are the most safety-oriented people I've
10 ever seen. I work in aircraft, so I kind of have an
11 idea about it. So you'll watch these guys, and
12 they're just meticulous about everything.

13 I saw the land before they came, I saw
14 them work on it, and I saw them leave. And trust me,
15 the land is pristine when they left. You can't even
16 tell they was there after it was over with.

17 So I leave you today with the hope that
18 you will go ahead and accept the contract and let
19 them go ahead with this Keystone pipeline.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

21 Speaker No. 49.

22 MR. VALYER: Good afternoon. My name is

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1 Tom Valyer, and I am an active member of Laborers
2 Local No. 1290. I have personally been involved in
3 the pipeline industry for the past five years, and
4 the last two years employed as a labor steward by
5 various contractors in the completion of the Keystone
6 pipeline phase 2.

7 The construction of this pipeline has been
8 beneficial to many family members and other Kansans.
9 I stand here today in support of the Keystone
10 project. Let's keep Americans working.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 50.

13 MS. LOYD: Good afternoon. I'm Peggy
14 Ricketts, Vice President, Customer Care at Westar
15 Energy.

16 On behalf of Westar Energy, I'm here to
17 voice our support of TransCanada's Keystone XL
18 pipeline project in Kansas. We believe this project
19 will provide a valuable economic stimulus for this
20 region, providing construction-related jobs as well
21 as income for local taxing entities where the
22 pipeline is located.

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1 It also appears that increased oil
2 shipments from Canada will help reduce our reliance
3 on oil supplies from less stable countries.
4 TransCanada will be one of our largest customers in
5 terms of energy consumption, after all construction
6 is complete and the planned pump stations are up and
7 running.

8 We have developed a good working
9 relationship with TransCanada. Building
10 relationships with our customers is important to us,
11 and we strive to be a partner in helping them achieve
12 their goal. In some cases, our goals are very
13 similar. Safety is one of Westar's core values, and
14 safety is also key to TransCanada's operations.

15 For example, they requested that we raise
16 our electric lines in many locations where they cross
17 the pipeline right-of-way. This provided a safe work
18 environment for pipeline installers. They have also
19 been a good environmental partner, showing a strong
20 interest in doing things right along the pipeline
21 route and near Westar's substation facilities.

22 Westar is one of many energy companies

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1 supplying power to the Keystone pump stations.
2 Currently we have four TransCanada pump stations
3 working here in Kansas on our electric grid.
4 Achieving this goal required extensive coordination
5 by both Westar and TransCanada in regards to
6 construction and logistics.

7 We expect additional pump stations to be
8 up and running within 18 months. We welcome
9 TransCanada as a new corporate neighbor, and we look
10 forward to continuing our work with them. Thank you
11 for the opportunity to voice our support for this
12 project.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

14 Speaker No. 51.

15 MR. EAGAN: I'm Gerald Eagan of the Local
16 Union 314 of the United Association of Plumbers,
17 Pipefitters and Sprinkler Fitters.

18 I support the completion of the Keystone
19 XL pipeline. The majority of our members are
20 outdoors men and women, and they have an abiding
21 respect for our environment; but many of them are now
22 struggling to support their families.

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1 I've heard that the jobs created are going
2 to be temporary jobs; but all construction jobs are
3 temporary. I've also heard people address the export
4 issue. In a report published in June, Venezuela and
5 Mexico were reducing the amount of oil that they are
6 sending to the United States. The amount of oil we
7 get from the oil sands in no way would compensate us
8 for the amount of oil not being sent by those two
9 nations.

10 I support the Keystone pipeline, and thank
11 you for your time.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 52.

14 SISTER BANGERT: I'm Sister Therese
15 Bangert, a Sister of Charity at Leavenworth, and the
16 Social Justice Coordinator for those sisters. Like
17 the man who came and said he's learned a lot today, I
18 am with him. I, too, have learned a lot. But it
19 does not change my mind on the overall attitude about
20 the pipeline.

21 As Sisters of Charity at Leavenworth,
22 we've had a significant presence in Kansas and

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1 Montana for over 150 years. The people and the
2 environment of both of these states stand to be
3 impacted by the construction of this pipeline.

4 As Sisters of Charity, we want to join our
5 voices with the letter that went to Secretary Clinton
6 back in June of 2011; and it was from faith-based
7 organizations who are concerned for people, including
8 the many, many people who suffer in this recession,
9 and the environment.

10 I will submit a copy of my testimony and
11 this letter.

12 I would point out that three things have
13 happened since this June letter. At the White House,
14 over 1200 people were arrested for civil disobedience
15 in protest of this pipeline, including Nebraska and
16 Kansas ranchers. In July, an Exxon-Mobile pipeline
17 spilled more than 40,000 gallons of oil into the
18 Yellowstone River in Montana, and environmental
19 disaster that is still being cleaned up.

20 And Nebraska's governor, Dave Heineman,
21 who grew up in the same community I did, has asked
22 for protection of the Ogallala Aquifer, and this

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1 pipeline not be built there.

2 To those who say they agree that we need
3 to lessen our dependence on fossil fuel, I would
4 share that as I drove here today on the Kansas
5 Turnpike, the news tells us that the minority party
6 in the U.S. Senate is holding up the budget bill that
7 will pay for the federal government -- and your
8 salaries, I presume -- after October 1st. The
9 sticking point is the money that would study ways to
10 improve technology to get better gas mileage in our
11 vehicles.

12 So for us, there still is not the will or
13 there still is great resistance to lessening, it
14 seems to me, dependence on fossil fuels.

15 I would also ask this administration to
16 pay attention to a Gallup poll this month, where
17 people who expressed a very negative or somewhat
18 negative view of the oil industry was 64 percent, in
19 this country.

20 In closing, I quote the letter from the
21 people of faith: As a people of faith, we are in awe
22 of earth's goodness and its ability to provide life

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1 for all of God's creation. As such, we need to
2 ensure that proper steps are taken to secure this
3 ability for future generations to come. As a people,
4 society and government, we need to respect the
5 intrinsic value of creation, and thus the environment
6 as well. We urge you not to permit TransCanada the
7 opportunity to build the Keystone XL pipeline.

8 Thank you for listening, and peace be with
9 you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 53.

12 MS. CARMICHAEL: Hello. My name is Janet
13 Carmichael, and I live in Shawnee, Kansas. I'm a
14 retired school teacher and I'm here as a concerned
15 citizen.

16 I urge the United States State Department
17 to refuse to permit the Keystone XL tar sands
18 pipeline. Leaks from this pipeline would pollute
19 fresh water supplies in American's agricultural
20 heartland. It is estimated that a pipeline failure
21 could spill 7.9 million tar sands crude into our
22 underground aquifer. The underground aquifer spans

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1 eight states including Kansas, and provides drinking
2 water for two million people and farmers.

3 Canadian tar sands oil is especially
4 toxic, dangerous and difficult to transport in
5 pipelines. The Keystone XL pipeline will threaten
6 the Nebraska Sand Hills, the underground aquifer, our
7 nation's largest underground water source, and many
8 major rivers, ranchland and habitat across the route.

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10 The United States has enough oil pipeline
11 capacity without the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.
12 There is already a whole system of pipelines from
13 Alberta to the United States, with the recent
14 approvals for two major dedicated raw tar sands oil
15 pipelines to the Midwest.

16 And I would ask the gentleman before me
17 who spoke, that can certify that the land in Kansas
18 is pristine before and after the pipeline, I wish
19 that he could certify that the land is pristine in
20 Alberta before and after that work.

21 So I hear my union brothers and sisters
22 out there, and I did too learn that most of the oil

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1 will not be for our benefit, but will be shipped to
2 other places; and I just wonder if there's any way my
3 union brothers and sisters could find infrastructure
4 jobs in the United States that would benefit us.

5 So I urge the State Department to deny a
6 Presidential Permit to the Keystone XL tar sands
7 pipeline. We need to protect our clean air and our
8 clean water in Kansas. This pipeline does not serve
9 our national interest. Thank you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 I think we will have time for two more
12 speakers; speaker No. 54 and speaker No. 55, then we
13 will break for 30 minutes, from 3:30 to 4. Then we
14 will resume with Speaker No. 57 at 4 o'clock.

15 MS. KIRKPATRICK: Hello, my name is Judy
16 Kirkpatrick. I've been a resident of Kansas all of
17 my life. I've been interested in environmental
18 issues since the early Sixties, and I come before you
19 today to ask that we reject this proposal. I do not
20 support the proposed pipeline because this pipeline
21 is detrimental to farm land, it's also detrimental to
22 the Ogallala water Aquifer, our rivers and streams,

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1 and our air quality.

2 We also reject it because of toxins that
3 can never be corrected with the land and the water
4 that could never be cleaned up again after a spill or
5 a leak. Our wildlife and environment will suffer.
6 It will not add to jobs in Kansas because at the
7 Kansas portion is already built, and most of us ever
8 knew it was even being built.

9 Even though we're active in environmental
10 issues, so many of us never knew that it was being
11 built.

12 Going forward with this tar sands dirty
13 oil project will slow our progress for the
14 development of truly clean, sustainable energy which
15 will have ongoing permanent jobs. We need wind,
16 solar, biomass.

17 Because the oil that is refined is
18 destined to be exported to other countries, it will
19 do nothing to alleviate our dependence on foreign
20 oil. As a grandmother and a mother of dear ones who
21 have problems with asthma and other autoimmune
22 diseases, we don't need any more toxins in the air or

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1 the water or the land. Please reject this pipeline.

2 And I thank you.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Let's hear from speaker No. 55.

5 Is speaker No. 55 in the room?

6 (No response.)

7 Speaker No. 56.

8 (No response.)

9 Speaker No. 57.

10 Can you state your name and affiliation.

11 MR. CALLOWAY: Yes, ma'am. My name is
12 Bill Calloway. I'm Director of Utilities for the
13 Clay Center, Kansas Public Utility Commission. I'm
14 also past president of Kansas Municipal Utilities,
15 Incorporated; that's 175 member unit of municipal
16 utilities in the State of Kansas. I'm also past
17 president of the Kansas Power Pool. The Kansas Power
18 Pool consists of 44 members of electric utilities in
19 the State of Kansas.

20 I got involved in TransCanada about three
21 and a half years ago, attending one of your public
22 meetings, and I found that there was a potential to

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1 have one of these pump stations located inside my
2 service territory. The City of Clay Center, Clay
3 Center Public Utility Commission provides all the
4 electricity and the water for Clay Center and the
5 electricity for a 200-mile service territory outside
6 the city.

7 In that three and a half years we have
8 strongly negotiated with TransCanada, very
9 professional. I have been with the Clay Center
10 Public Utility Commission 36 years. I have never
11 negotiated with such impeccable professional people.

12 Through that negotiation, TransCanada
13 elected to move Pump Station No. 27 into our service
14 territory. That is a huge thing for my small
15 utility. To give you an example, my utility's peak
16 load is about 16 megawatts in the middle of the
17 summertime. TransCanada Pump Station No. 27 will
18 pull 28 megawatts, 24 hours a day, every day of the
19 year. In turn, that will quadruple my electric sales
20 for my utility.

21 As you heard me speak, I'm a member of the
22 Kansas Power Pool, we do not buy energy from Westar;

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1 we buy all of our services through the Kansas Power
2 Pool. Adding this 28 megawatts to that power pool
3 will have everlasting effects to reduce the purchased
4 cost of energy for 44 members. It is huge, it is
5 everlasting, the rewards of having that pump station
6 and building the XL extension.

7 On top of that, I started -- they did the
8 Cushing Extension a year ago. We were very, very in
9 tune with them when they came in to do the extension.
10 Their contractors came and talked to us; it was
11 professional. They came to our community, the
12 pipeliners themselves, their families came to the
13 community; their wives joined organizations. Clay
14 Center Public Utility Commission has a 20-acre park
15 and zoo -- we've got monkeys, we've got bears -- it's
16 no tax money into that. I had a lady walk into my
17 office, said "Mr. Calloway, we want do a project in
18 your zoo." And I said "Well, that's nice."

19 They brought 18 wives, of the pipeliners
20 into our park. They scraped and they painted the
21 playgrounds, all the poles and everything. Very
22 community-oriented, very professional. I can't speak

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1 highly enough about them. When they left Clay
2 Center, Kansas, TransCanada wrote us a check for
3 playground equipment of \$10,000. They did what they
4 said they were going to do, they were very
5 professional about it. I defy you to go through Clay
6 County, in Clay Center, Kansas and find where they
7 even put that pipeline today. If you don't see the
8 markers and you don't see the valves, you'll struggle
9 to find that pipeline.

10 I personally flew over it in a small plane
11 coming home about two months ago, and I could not
12 even find where the pipeline was.

13 Common sense needs to prevail. This is
14 huge, it's huge for our economy, and it's not just my
15 utility; it's spread from one end of this state to
16 the other. And I think we need to allow this
17 pipeline, and I appreciate your time. Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 We will now have a 30 minute break. We
21 will resume at 4 o'clock with No. 58. Hopefully you
22 can stretch, maybe get a snack, and you can stay in

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1 the room if you so desire. Thank you.

2 (30-minute recess.)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: We will now resume the
4 public meeting with Speaker No. 58.

5 MR. THATCHER: Hello, my name is Jim
6 Thatcher. I'm the Mayor of Clay Center, Kansas.

7 I'd like to give everybody just a little
8 bit different perspective of what they might have
9 heard throughout the day. I can't speak globally of
10 how this will affect our earth or our environment,
11 but I can't explain to you what it did to the City of
12 Jim Thatcher. I'm the Mayor of Clay Center, Kansas
13 and the County of Clay County financially and
14 economically.

15 It impacted our city in more ways than I
16 can even tell you. The Price Gregory, TransCanada
17 came through our city -- it's four miles east of our
18 city. They were impeccable. Professional all the
19 way; they helped our community in a lot of different
20 ways that, by donating time and material and labor to
21 fix up our parks, to donating money for community
22 projects; they just went above and beyond the call of

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1 what they really had to do. Professional-
2 professional. They were very professional.

3 To give you just a small, just a little
4 bit of an idea of what they do for the City of Clay
5 Center is, there's going to be a pump station right
6 beside the City of Clay Center is, there's going to
7 be a pump station right beside the City of Clay
8 Center; they will be our electrical customer. And
9 with that, the City of Clay Center obviously will put
10 a four percentage on all the energy that they use.
11 That could possibly bring the City of Clay Center
12 \$25,000 to \$30,000 a month in revenue to our city.
13 That's enormous for a city of our size.

14 If you guys look up that pipeline, you'd
15 see there's a lot of cities that are our size.
16 Generally cities of our size don't get that little
17 nugget like that, so think of all the rest of the
18 ones this will impact. And also within this -- all
19 this talking and what not, they were explaining or
20 talking about how it affects our agricultural and our
21 farmers throughout our country. We are right, smack
22 dab in the middle of agricultural America. Farmers,

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1 our entire county is farmers, and I did not hear one
2 complaint about the pipeline, not one.

3 I don't know what else to say; my public
4 utilities superintendent kind of went through it a
5 lot better than I did just a minute ago, but I'd just
6 like to thank you all for your time; and
7 economically, for little towns like us across the
8 nation, this is a big deal for us. So keep that in
9 mind, please. Thank you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 59.

12 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm simply reading this on
13 behalf of Judy Wright.

14 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.
15 Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts
16 on the Keystone XL pipeline. I do so as a committed
17 citizen, a taxpayer, a mother and a grandmother, and
18 I am here to urge you not to approve the pipeline.

19 These are the reasons: 1) continuing our
20 country's current dependence on fossil fuel is like
21 staying on a road that you know comes to a dead end.
22 However long it goes until it stops, we all know that

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1 it's going to stop. This does nothing to prepare us
2 for a future without oil. The only way to try to
3 preserve the American way of life is to invest
4 resources to develop alternative energy sources. The
5 pipeline would divert its resources from this
6 endeavor.

7 2) According to a State Department study,
8 the pipeline would only create about 7,000 jobs, not
9 the 20,000 claimed by TransCanada, which is based on
10 an 100-year projection. The Cornell Global Labor
11 Institute calculates that it may result in a net loss
12 of jobs.

13 3) Corrosivity and abrasiveness are
14 unavoidable issues, and the U.S. regulations for
15 pipelines are not designed to deal with tar sands
16 materials. The smaller, existing Keystone pipeline
17 has had 14 leaks in its first year of operation and
18 does not traverse features nearly so crucial to
19 Canada's way of life as the Ogallala Aquifer is to
20 ours. This aquifer spans eight states, providing
21 drinking water for 2 million people, and supports \$20
22 billion annually in agriculture.

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1 A pipeline accident here could spill up to
2 7.9 million gallons of toxic crude oil into the
3 aquifer, contaminating up to 4.9 billion gallons of
4 water, and a plume 15 miles long, according to a
5 report released this summer by the University of
6 Nebraska professor and environmental engineer John
7 Stansbury. This would destroy food crops, farmers'
8 way of life, and the livelihood structure of a huge
9 section of our country.

10 Yes, TransCanada theoretically has
11 sufficient capitalization to fund corrective
12 measures, about 72 percent of that of BP, if I have
13 read the financials correctly, such as those paid for
14 by BP in the Gulf. But that may not even be
15 possible. Aquifer water is not a renewable resource,
16 unlike sea water. There is probably no way that
17 TransCanada could correct or compensate for a leak
18 into the aquifer.

19 In sum, let's not be dumb and
20 shortsighted. Please think smart, act smart and vote
21 against the Keystone XL pipeline and focus our
22 country's resource on more promising energy options

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1 for the sake of your current and future constituents
2 and for the sake of our country.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 60.

5 MR. ACKERMAN: My name is Myron Ackerman,
6 Wichita, Kansas. I'm here as a citizen and
7 independent speaker. I do have to, by way of
8 clarification, I am currently employed by a natural
9 gas company. My employment is to terminate, my
10 current position, through technology. I am operator
11 qualified for all operations, gas operations; so I am
12 familiar with the natural gas pipeline, the
13 construction, all phases of actual pipeline
14 operation.

15 The U.S. has the most highly regulated,
16 highly skilled, highly tested pipeline system. All
17 the people who have spoken against this proposal
18 receive their natural gas through a pipeline. It is
19 heavily regulated, it is monitored for corrosion.
20 There is an infinite number of safeguards that will
21 protect this. We talk about a massive spill. If a
22 line detects a loss of pressure, it will immediately

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1 be shut down. There will not be a major loss.

2 This is not a highly liquid substance. If
3 it escapes the pipe, it can be remediated by being
4 moved and disposed of. It's not going to sink to the
5 depth of the aquifer.

6 With that aside, speaking as a citizen of
7 the U.S., Canada has been an ally of the U.S. for
8 over a century. They will, as a free market nation,
9 develop their resources. They will sell the
10 resources of the type, tar sands. They can sell them
11 to the U.S., which they are willing to do and
12 apparently prepared to do, or they can sell them,
13 they can pipe it out to the West Coast and ship it to
14 China or other markets.

15 We as the U.S. compete in a global market
16 for energy. We have an ally of over a century who
17 was willing to ship product to us. Yes, if it does
18 reach Port Arthur and it is shipped overseas, it will
19 be refined on a U.S. payroll, it will be inspected by
20 a U.S. payroll. Everything about this program is a
21 massive economic benefit to the U.S. It is minimal
22 but it is a minor safety aspect; if it can leak, they

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1 do. But I'm sure this has been thoroughly studied by
2 the Environmental Impact Statement.

3 You know the science, you know the market
4 that this is meeting. We have the best workers, the
5 best regulation and the best processing opportunity,
6 the cleanest opportunity to effectively use this
7 resource. It will be used. There is no nation
8 better than the U.S. and Canada to actively exploit,
9 or if you want to, just use and develop this product.

10 Cowley County people, it amuses me; they
11 have gathering pipeline all over that county. They
12 leak. They're old lines, they are held to a high
13 standard but they still develop leaks. Under current
14 pipeline regulation we are -- the company I am
15 employed by -- is required to notify within 15
16 minutes of a leak beginning.

17 Our company was fined because we reported
18 a leak, a minor leak into a small stream that we
19 remediated; but we reported it within 15 minutes of
20 knowing that it existed. However, the regulators
21 determined that it had been flowing for 45 minutes.
22 Therefore, the company was fined.

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1 The system that we have for regulating and
2 remediating any possible effect is so massively
3 impressive that to think of this as a hazard is
4 ridiculous. We have a safe system, we have a highly
5 regulated system built by highly trained and highly
6 skilled people. This is a massive economic
7 opportunity for the U.S. and if we don't take
8 advantage of it, someone else will.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 61.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 62.

14 MR. TUNNELL: Thank you. My name is Bruce
15 Tunnell, Executive Vice President, Kansas City AFL-
16 CIO. Thanks for letting me speak here today.

17 The Kansas AFL-CIO represents over 95,000
18 workers in the State of Kansas, and on behalf of
19 those workers, I'd like to go on the record for
20 continued installation and operation of the Keystone
21 pipeline and the jobs it will bring to Kansas.

22 This project is in our national interest

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1 as well as the interest of the State of Kansas. It
2 will improve America's security by providing a stable
3 energy supply with a friendly, reliable neighbor,
4 being Canada.

5 The pipeline will be constructed and
6 operated using industry best practices, and will meet
7 or exceed all existing regulatory standards. For
8 those and many other reasons, the Kansas AFL-CIO
9 supports this project. Thank you.

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

11 Speaker No. 63.

12 MR. TURNER: I'm Jim Turner from
13 Kirtsville, Missouri. I am Missouri's Sierra Club's
14 delegate to the Council of Club Leaders, which
15 consists of delegates from each of the 63 chapters of
16 the Sierra Club through the United States.

17 I oppose the tar sands XL pipeline. I
18 have heard many sound pieces of information provided
19 by the Kansas Interfaith Power & Light Council, and
20 from other speakers about our concerns based in
21 science about the development of the tar sands.

22 If the Nebraska Governor is concerned

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1 about having the pipeline go around the Ogallala
2 Aquifer, then I will continue to be concerned. Often
3 these pipelines, if there's not rigorous enforcement
4 of how well pipelines are established, there
5 certainly have been links up in Alaska, and it's
6 especially bad in the polar area.

7 My biggest concern, though, is global
8 warming and climate instability; because even the tar
9 sands uses gas, and that puts a lot of carbon into
10 the atmosphere. Now I've heard statements twice
11 here today that seem to indicate that more and more
12 carbon is better and better for agriculture and
13 raising plants. Well, I think that kind of statement
14 must be based on an eighth grade science textbook out
15 of the 1950s. Because it's well known nowadays that
16 as the atmosphere heats -- and carbon dioxide and
17 methane heat the atmosphere; and as the atmosphere
18 heats, it will hold more water vapor. With more
19 water vapor, we have more severe storms. We have
20 hurricanes reaching up into Vermont and wiping out
21 highways and damaging the streams, and we have
22 droughts, more severe droughts, droughts which caused

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1 severe forest fires. Down in Texas, for example, we
2 have prolonged heat which has disrupted the food
3 raising here in the Midwest.

4 Now as for our energy needs. In the
5 first place, with more efficiency measures being
6 adopted which can provide a lot of good jobs, we can
7 have less -- our energy needs are not going to grow
8 as much as is often alleged. We could develop solar
9 energy a lot better; we could get it scaled up a lot
10 more of we would have energy policies like Germany
11 does, with buy-in tariffs which would motivate
12 consumers to put solar, photovoltaic panels on their
13 houses so that they can get some revenue out of it
14 instead of all the money going to some investors in
15 coal companies and oil companies.

16 Oil should not be subsidized by our
17 government as much as it does, because it is given an
18 unfair and inappropriate advantage to fossil fuels.
19 Fossil fuels which put many costs onto our nation in
20 terms of poor health, health problems, and in terms
21 of stresses on our ecosystems, ecosystems which, if
22 they are healthy they provide many benefits to human

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1 society, such as good food out of the ocean and well-
2 purified water and air.

3 If we could provide a better comparative
4 status for solar energy, as compared to subsidized
5 oil energy, we would have a better movement toward
6 renewable energy. And energy efficiency and
7 renewable energies will bring many jobs that will
8 stay in the United States and be continuous.

9 I concur with those who say that this
10 pipeline is like an addict looking around for a
11 dirtier source of the next polluting substance.
12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

15 Speaker No. 64.

16 Can you state your name and affiliation.

17 MS. MILAZZO: My name is Rachel Milazzo,
18 I'm an attorney at S&R Dutton.

19 I'd like to start off, and to set the
20 record straight, a lot of people have come up here
21 today and they have made the assertion that the oil
22 that's going through the Keystone pipeline is not

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1 going to be used in the United States, and that it's
2 going to be shipped overseas and shipped to China and
3 so on and so forth. That is not in fact correct.

4 The Keystone pipeline project anticipates
5 that the majority of the oil that is going to be
6 shipped through the pipeline is going to be used in
7 the United States. So that's an important fact that
8 I wanted to point out, first and foremost.

9 Not only would the Keystone pipeline be
10 beneficial to the United States economy, it would
11 also be beneficial to national security. Even with
12 all the new technologies, the alternative fuel
13 sources and conservation efforts, the United States
14 is still going to have significant energy for the
15 foreseeable future. The U.S. currently is very
16 dependent on imported sources of energy, and they're
17 at the mercy of the fact that they're importing that
18 energy.

19 The Keystone pipeline project will provide
20 the United States with an energy source that is not
21 subject to geopolitical tensions, and it is not going
22 to have to face possible volatile international

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1 relations. And it's very important to have a
2 consistent, reliable and stable source of energy
3 which will be able to give us the national security
4 that we need.

5 In addition, local economy will benefit
6 from the project because of the fact that there will
7 be significant property taxes that will be generated.
8 For years and years to come, it is estimated that
9 over the lifespan of the pipeline, an estimated \$5.2
10 billion in property taxes will be generated, in
11 addition to the point that many people have brought
12 up here today. Thousands and thousands of jobs over
13 not just the next two years but also for years to
14 come, for the next 20 to 25 years if not more.

15 I have been affiliated with and known
16 individuals that worked for Keystone pipeline since
17 2007. I know them to be dedicated, compassionate
18 people full of respect and integrity; and that is how
19 I know the company operates. I know that from
20 personal experience; I get that over a several year
21 period of time.

22 I support the Keystone pipeline project,

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1 and I wish that the rest of the people here today
2 would do the same. Thank you.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 65.

5 MR. TURVEY: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Paul Turvey; I'll be speaking in support of the
7 project on behalf of SNR Denton.

8 Thank you in advance for your time
9 listening to all this this afternoon; certainly
10 appreciate it. I think there's no doubt that the
11 United States right now is one of the worst economic
12 slumps it's ever encountered. The federal government
13 spent a tremendous amount of money and aimed that
14 money at stimulating recovery and growth.

15 I think it should be noted that this XL
16 project does not require one dollar of federal
17 stimulus money. It will produce thousands and
18 thousands of jobs over the next year and for years to
19 come, leaving that money to handle other projects.

20 Another point relative to our discussion
21 is the national security of the United States and its
22 reliance on the international energy market. Right

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1 now the United States is reliant on numerous OPEC
2 nations for its oil supply. This alliance means that
3 those nations can determine how much oil we're privy
4 to; they can determine when that oil is available,
5 and most importantly how much the oil is going to
6 cost.

7 By creating additional oil supply, I think
8 we mitigate those risks, and we provide stability
9 while building a relationship with Canada. I
10 understand another chief concern with this project is
11 the environmental safety and potential impact of the
12 pipeline, and rightly so.

13 I think it should be pointed out, however,
14 Keystone has an impeccable 60-year record of
15 environmental stewardship. They've taken numerous
16 years to develop plans and procedures in connection
17 with the construction of pipelines in order to
18 mitigate and reduce any kind of risk. With this
19 careful planning and with the help of highly
20 qualified and skilled contractors and workers, I
21 think it will be safe to say, approved that this
22 pipeline would be the safest pipeline ever built.

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1 So in closing I think the time is now to
2 for this project to take place. Environmental issues
3 have been addressed, the economy could badly use an
4 injection of cash and jobs; and perhaps most
5 importantly, the national security and stability of
6 this nation very may well depend on it.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 66.

10 MS. NOONAN: I'd like to add my thanks to
11 the thanks others have given you for being here and
12 giving us all the chance to state our opinions.

13 I'm a mom, a grandma, a daughter, an aunt,
14 all that good stuff, all the fun stuff. I'm also a
15 small business owner, because I'm a landscape
16 architect.

17 In my job I have to have a working
18 knowledge of a number of fields that I need to use
19 whenever they're crossing my path, including geology,
20 engineering, natural systems and yes, even
21 geomorphological hydrology.

22 Since the enlightenment, we've been

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1 separating out sciences and disciplines; those are
2 very separate things. We think of them as very
3 separate things, but that's not how they work. They
4 work together. So my job, when I get a design
5 problem, is to bring all those strands back together
6 along with other issues; economics, social policy,
7 political issues. And at the end of the day if my
8 job is well done, either you have a dry basement or
9 you're sending clean water back into the aquifer; or
10 maybe a local municipality doesn't have to pay MPDES
11 fines because they're not sending pollution into the
12 nearest river.

13 So I'm the person, or I'm one of the
14 people who gets called when there are unintended
15 consequences. Something gets built and it doesn't
16 work quite the way it was supposed to work, whatever
17 happens, I'm a person who comes in to figure out how
18 to get it cleaned up and how to fix it and how to
19 make it be a positive thing in your city, your life,
20 the world.

21 And by the way, I don't think I've heard
22 anybody mention the wrench fault. When I looked at

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1 the map where the pipeline is going, there's actually
2 a wrench fault under Wamego. A wrench fault is an
3 unstable fault; it's always active, usually at a very
4 low level. It is connected to the New Madrid Fault,
5 which all of us as Midwesterners know is the one that
6 rang church bells in Boston. That's under Wamego,
7 and it's always active.

8 With the wrench fault, we don't really
9 have a good way of anticipating one that will be
10 active again. But it's not just professional and
11 scientific reasons that inform my opinion against
12 Keystone XL.

13 I was raised in a fairly religious family.
14 The moral lines were writ large. And if there was
15 one thing our parents try to drill into our heads,
16 it's that if you support something that is wrong, you
17 are implicated in that wrong. And so even if there's
18 never a leak between Canada and Texas, our hands are
19 still stained by that oil, by the irremedial damage
20 it will do in that boreal forest. And it seems like
21 a long way away but it will affect our food chain and
22 it will affect the air that we breathe.

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1 Finally, when I was a kid, when I was
2 growing up, I would read about the great
3 industrialists of the 19th and 20th Centuries and how
4 they made their money, and I wondered how I could
5 anticipate the next great ideas and the
6 infrastructure that would take so I could be in on
7 it. And what I realized was that the industrialists
8 were early adopters; they didn't make their money by
9 continuing the status quo; they made their fortunes
10 by putting their money behind new technology and new
11 infrastructure. That is the economic engine that
12 made us the most powerful country in the world.

13 Right now we're kind of ceding that to
14 China, and China's essentially doing what we did a
15 hundred years ago, and we're going to lose that
16 ground. I have to say I'm not a big fan of big
17 industrialists; I did grow up in Pittsburgh,
18 Pennsylvania, up there in Uniontown. I've been a
19 member of a number of unions, I've been a union
20 organizer, and that's one of the reasons I'm really
21 proud of the IBEW in Kansas City. They have a
22 program where they're training guys to work in new

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1 technologies. They're doing outreach to people who
2 may use those new technologies to get their guys
3 jobs.

4 I have four kids, and when I walk into the
5 house with a dozen powdered sugar donuts and I put
6 them down, they make locusts look slow. And as we
7 get through all of those donuts, there's always one
8 or two people licking their fingers at the end and
9 sticking it in the powdered sugar, trying to get
10 every last bit out of the box. But instead of
11 suggesting that we tear up that box, put it in a pot
12 of water and boil it to get more sugar, I get out
13 carrots or apples or whatever. So instead of
14 spending all this time and energy on going after the
15 end of the powdered sugar, can I suggest we go for
16 carrots and apples?

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 Speaker No. 67.

20 MR. GLENDENING: Hi, my name is Jeff
21 Glendening, I'm with the Kansas Chamber of Commerce,
22 Vice President of Political Affairs. Thank you for

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1 the opportunity to allow us to testify here today in
2 strong support of the jobs that will be created by
3 the Keystone XL people project.

4 On behalf of Kansas Job Creators, we urge
5 you to grant the Presidential Permit that is required
6 for construction of this important project. Kansas
7 Job Creators strongly believes that Keystone XL is in
8 our country's national interest. Because for one
9 reason, it will improve our national security. As
10 you know, the pipeline will provide more than 700,000
11 barrels of oil each day, from the Dakotas, Montana,
12 Oklahoma and Alberta to refineries along the Texas
13 Gulf Coast, reducing our dependence on oil imports
14 from unreliable sources, proving a long term stable
15 energy supply to the United States.

16 By supporting domestic production and
17 importing oil from Canada, our ally, and the State of
18 Kansas is a trading partner instead of politically
19 unstable countries, we will strengthen both our
20 national security and our energy security.

21 Importing Canadian oil allows us to
22 diversify our supply and help shield us from price

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1 volatility. Importantly for us the project will
2 create jobs that are critically important to spur
3 national economic growth. The pipeline is expected
4 to create nearly 20,000 manufacturing and
5 construction jobs in the U.S. as well as provide for
6 more than \$5.2 billion in tax revenue to Keystone XL
7 corridor states, like Kansas.

8 The Kansas section of the pipeline has
9 already been completed, and construction has been
10 extremely beneficial to the State's economy in a time
11 when it was sorely needed. During construction of
12 the first two phases of the Keystone in Kansas, it is
13 estimated that TransCanada spent approximately
14 \$481 million in our state. This generated
15 significant job creation, increased sales and use tax
16 receipts by \$8 million. All of which greatly
17 benefited Kansas.

18 Further, the Kansas Chamber of Commerce
19 believes that the Department of State has thoroughly
20 analyzed the project's environment impact, and that
21 the final EIS properly concludes that there will be
22 no significant impact to most resources along the

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1 proposed project corridor.

2 In Kansas we're happy to report that
3 TransCanada worked closely with landowners to ensure
4 that their land was returned to its original
5 condition, as promised. We are confident the
6 Keystone XL will be constructed using industry best
7 practices, and meet or exceed all existing pipeline
8 regulatory standards as they have always done.

9 The Kansas Chamber of Commerce believes
10 that the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is
11 in the best interests of the community, and in fact
12 all Americans. I respectfully request the Department
13 of State expeditiously approve the project to grant
14 TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary to
15 begin building the pipeline. Thank you.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 68.

19 Speaker No. 68. Speaker No. 69.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 70.

22 I believe speaker No. 71 may have left.

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1 Is Speaker No. 72 here?

2 (No response.)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 73?

4 MR. COHEN: My name is Ben Cohen, I'm from
5 Topeka, Kansas. I'm with the Kansas Young Democrats.

6 I'm here to speak in opposition to the
7 construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, primarily
8 due to the impacts on the Ogallala Aquifer that runs
9 through so much of Western Kansas.

10 My concern is the fact that the aquifer is
11 the backbone of our State's agricultural industry.
12 It is where so many people get their drinking water,
13 in that part of the state, and is where much
14 irrigation water comes from. Any sort of long term
15 damage to that would have incredible impacts on the
16 economy of our state, and by extension much of the
17 American Midwest. This is in the long term; I have
18 to say I feel seriously outweighs the short-term job
19 creation that has been promised by the TransCanada
20 company. They have promised up to, I believe the
21 estimate is 13,000 jobs. This is again only
22 temporary ones going towards the construction of the

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1 pipeline. I'd also point out the fact that since we
2 are supposed to be speaking from the perspective of
3 Kansans, most of this work will not happen in Kansas,
4 as most of the construction has already happened
5 here.

6 The ones, however we would lose if the
7 water table in Western Kansas were to be damaged due
8 to a leak in the oil pipeline, would be permanent; we
9 would not be able to get that water back; we already
10 have issues of having a slow rate of recharge within
11 the Ogallala Aquifer, and this would impact us on a
12 much longer term; and from the perspective of
13 Kansans, on a much greater scale.

14 I'd also point out the fact that I know a
15 lot of people have said that we are using the
16 industry best in building this pipeline; that this
17 company has supposedly a great record; yet we can see
18 that the Keystone project itself has not lived up to
19 that. In the first year of its operation the
20 Keystone I pipeline, the one which the XL would be
21 connected to, actually leaked 12 times; that is a
22 rate of one a month, and this would be an extension

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1 of that project, going over what is a major source of
2 water in the state. It was also pointed out earlier
3 that it would be built partially over a wrench fault,
4 which is constantly active, so that is an increased
5 risk of damage.

6 Another great concern, one that has been
7 pointed out to me in the past, as we've been
8 discussing this, is that much of the tar sand oil
9 which we'd be transporting through this pipeline
10 would be going down to the Gulf instead of to
11 refineries in Oklahoma as they previously were; these
12 are ones that are primarily set up to refine crude
13 oil that is mined from other places, not tar sands;
14 so this would require a serious adjustment on their
15 part.

16 There's also a great deal of speculation
17 that a lot of the oil would go to China. I know some
18 people have attempted to address that before; it just
19 makes me feel like we aren't reducing any sort of
20 dependence on foreign oil, and by extension are not
21 doing anything to alleviate any concerns about
22 national safety and national security, as a few

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1 people have felt the need to insist upon.

2 The last thing that I'd like to say, I
3 didn't want to speak for too long, was that we are
4 talking about the role of oil in our country and in
5 our society. We need to think about the cost.
6 Escalating cost has been obviously a massive concern
7 for everyone for so long; and this would in no way
8 decrease the cost of oil; it would not make it easier
9 for anyone to fill up their pump to use for
10 industrial purposes, and I'm going to elaborate on
11 that just by reading a statement from TransCanada
12 itself in its request for the construction of this
13 pipeline. This is from Section 3, the supply markets
14 of their request, the group pricing impact section.

15 According to them: Existing markets for
16 Canadian heavy crude, principally PADD2 of the U.S.
17 Midwest, are currently oversupplied, resulting in
18 price discounting for Canadian heavy crude oil.
19 According to the U.S. Gulf Coast, via the access to
20 the U.S. Gulf Coast, via the Keystone XL pipeline is
21 expected to strengthen Canadian crude oil pricing of
22 PADD2 by removing this oversupply.

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1 This is expected to increase the price of
2 heavy crude to the equivalent cost of imported crude.
3 Similarly, if a surplus of light synthetic crude
4 develops in PADD2, the Keystone XL pipeline would
5 provide an alternate market and therefore help to
6 mitigate a price discount. The resulting increase in
7 the price of heavy crude is estimated to provide an
8 increase in annual revenue to the Canadian producing
9 industry in 2013 of \$2 billion US to \$3.9 billion US.

10 This is basically an admission from the
11 company that is setting up this pipeline that their
12 concern is their own revenue, not the U.S. economy,
13 not the well-being of U.S. citizens or workers; this
14 is their own bottom line. And I'm sorry, speaking
15 from the perspective of an American citizen and a
16 Kansan, I really cannot prioritize that for us. We
17 like Canada -- great place, lovely people, but --
18 this is just how we need to focus. That will be all.

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20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Speaker No. 74.

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1 (No response.)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 75.

3 MR. GOAD. Good afternoon. My name is
4 Gary Goad, I am a TransCanada employee. I'm an
5 Operations Manager for TransCanada's ANR pipeline
6 system that operates here in Kansas. It is a natural
7 gas pipeline that has been in service for more than
8 60 years.

9 I want to thank the State Department for
10 the opportunity to present our views today. I have
11 been a Kansas resident my entire life, and spent my
12 entire career working in the pipeline industry.
13 Pipelines are one of the safest methods of
14 transporting crude oil. Far safer, for example, than
15 transporting by rail, truck, or barge. They also are
16 the most efficient and most economical.

17 TransCanada is taking all necessary steps
18 through design, construction, and operations of the
19 XL to ensure the safety of people and environment.
20 Pipeline monitoring, leak detection is performed
21 24/7, 365 days a year. Our U.S. economy -- and this
22 is fact -- will be dependent on carbon-based fuels

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1 for decades to come. U.S. refineries are in need of
2 secure, long term supply of oil. Keystone XL will
3 deliver abundant Canadian oil, but also U.S. supplies
4 being developed in North Dakota and Montana.

5 Keystone XL comes at a time when our
6 country's economy and workers need jobs. TransCanada
7 is a great community partner; I can attest to that by
8 working for them for the last number of years.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.
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11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 76.

13 MR. MODESITT: My name is Lee Modesitt,
14 I'm not affiliated with anyone; I'm here just as a
15 private citizen. Thank you guys for going across
16 this multi-state tour and having to sit and listen to
17 us go on and on, repeating some of the same things.

18 I hope I can offer a little bit of a
19 different perspective for you guys. Heard multiple
20 points today, one of which was a political issue.
21 People say over and over it's a political issue, and
22 I couldn't agree more. It's very rarely that you can

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1 find an issue that brings Republican businesses and
2 union works together, saying "We agree on this
3 particular project." So it has bipartisan support.

4 You know, I was listening to the radio
5 today and the president's out trying to sell his jobs
6 bill. And of course he's gearing up for reelection.
7 And part of his jobs proposal is to use government
8 funds to build infrastructure. Here you have a
9 private initiative to also build infrastructure that
10 create thousands and thousands of jobs.

11 So to me, that would be one of the things
12 he should be pushing in his jobs bill, saying "Here's
13 an opportunity to get Americans working again. It
14 will help start the process, decrease our nation's
15 dependence on foreign oil."

16 The president's campaign theme, winning
17 the future. And I'm a young American, obviously and
18 I can't help but realize that a lot of the folks that
19 have gotten up and talked about how we can't afford
20 to do this oil because it's not alternative fuels and
21 it's not going to be great for the environment.
22 We're about my age when Jimmy Carter was elected.

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1 And Jimmy Carter created the Department of Energy for
2 the sole purpose of decreasing our dependence on
3 foreign oil. Yet that hasn't worked.

4 We've been trying the environmental friend
5 alternative energy method, and it's simply not
6 working. So my question is, why don't we try a
7 different route? This is the same thing we've been
8 saying for years and years and years; yet the same
9 arguments keep being brought up: "Well, it's not
10 good for the environment."

11 The simple fact is if we don't build it
12 here, with American regulations, with American
13 businesses, with American jobs, so other country will
14 do it; for instance a country like China. What does
15 China have? Very minimal regulation; they're the
16 number one polluter in the world. Do we want to do
17 it here with our regulations where it's safe, or do
18 we want to let some country like China decide what
19 we're going to do in the near future?

20 Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 Speaker No. 77.

2 MR. MOSES: Thank you. First of all, I
3 wish to welcome you to Kansas, glad you could join us
4 today in taking the opportunity to take our
5 statements. My name is Woody Moses; I'm with the
6 Kansas Aggregate Producers, Kansas Ready Mix Concrete
7 Association and the Kansas Cement Council. And all
8 of which entities wish to voice their support for the
9 Trans-Canadian XL pipeline, or the Keystone XL
10 pipeline.

11 We have had a lot of experience with that
12 company and other pipeline companies in Kansas
13 throughout the years; I've been knocking around this
14 area since 1969, working both with the Ogallala
15 Aquifer, quarrying and mining and issues like that,
16 and I can tell you that all of these operators strive
17 to operate in the most safe manner possible,
18 including TransCanada.

19 But beyond that, the operation of the
20 pipeline as well as construction of the pipeline does
21 create jobs, improve our commerce. The building of
22 the pipeline indicated that, and the maintenance that

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1 follows afterwards is also a part of it; and we are
2 very, very supportive of the issuance of the permit.
3 And part of what you're doing here today is the due
4 diligence. And the EIS and everything like that will
5 identify any issues that may be outstanding; and with
6 those issues not identified, we feel that the project
7 should proceed. Thank you very much.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 78.

10 MR. GOSLER: Hi, my name is Josh Gosler,
11 and I'm just here as a citizen. The Keystone
12 pipeline project would, in one fell swoop, help us
13 through the country's biggest problem, currently;
14 energy prices, unemployment, and the deficit.

15 It employs thousands of individuals in
16 good-paying jobs, and by doing that it would help the
17 deficit in two ways; those unemployed would not be on
18 the public dole, whether it's Medicaid, unemployment,
19 and they would then be paying taxes into the system.

20 The additional energy on the market would
21 of course drive down the prices of energy overall.
22 The American people, as a speaker a speaker or two

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1 ago said, whether it's Republicans, Democrats or
2 Independents, support an America energy plan which
3 this project would be a part of, not the scarcity of
4 policies being pushed by those opposed to a project
5 like this.

6 And as he also said, if the U.S. did not
7 approve this, China would most likely be the one to
8 do this; and they have very little regard for the
9 environment, whereas we have -- some heavy-hand
10 regulations, but environmental regulations
11 nonetheless. And despite the State Department
12 issuing an environmental impact statement that was
13 favorable about this, the Environmental Protection
14 Agency, which has done all it can in the last couple
15 years to cripple America jobs in energy is stalling.
16 They just went into -- if we don't do this in
17 America, it's just going to go to another country;
18 China or Brazil, that does not care about the
19 environment as much as we do.

20 And I would urge you to sign off on this
21 project. As I said, it would help the deficit,
22 unemployment and energy prices all in one step.

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1 Thank you.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

3 Speaker No. 79.

4 MR. HARDEN: I am Dr. Dan Harden,

5 Professor Emeritus at Washington University.

6 Grateful for the opportunity to address you and would
7 like to focus my comments briefly on two important
8 areas: job creation and energy security.

9 As you may be aware, the International
10 Monetary Fund just revised its forecast downward for
11 near-term U.S. economic growth. The IMF cut its
12 current year forecast by six tenths of a percentage
13 point, to 1.6 percent. And for next year, by .7
14 percentage points to 1.9 percent. These
15 disappointing gross numbers are adding to the deep
16 uncertainty that characterizes our economy today, and
17 has brought job creation almost to a standstill.

18 The Keystone XL pipeline, on the other
19 hand, is a jobs engine. According to a report by the
20 Canadian Research Institute, this project will
21 support 600,000 new American jobs by 2035, and
22 generate more than \$775 billion in GDP from 2010 to

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1 2035. For Kansas, that means an estimated \$5 billion
2 in economic growth. The report used Canadian
3 dollars, which are more or less on par with U.S.
4 dollars today.

5 On energy security, the writer Daniel
6 Yergen has observed that "a lighter approach is now
7 required that takes into account the rapid evolution
8 of the global energy trade. That's supply chain
9 vulnerability, terrorism, and the integration of
10 major new economies into the world market

11 He points to the fast-growing economies of
12 China and India where these countries now view their
13 own energy security as inextricably linked to their
14 new, new dependence on global markets rather than
15 overstated notions of self-sufficiency. For most of
16 the developed and developing world, this definition
17 of energy security in contrast to any hope of total
18 energy independence is the new reality.

19 This helps us understand why, according to
20 news reports, Chinese energy firms have invested \$15
21 billion in Alberta oil sands projects in the last 18
22 months alone.

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1 The question we face, in large part, is
2 whether we are going to more tightly integrate with
3 Canada, our largest trading partner, and a nation
4 that largely understands our understandings of human
5 rights and environmental protection; or are we going
6 to continue to depend on oil from countries whose
7 political and social policies are deplorable? This
8 is the reason that more and more people are referring
9 to Canadian oil as "ethical oil."

10 U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu recently
11 pointed out that the companies involved in extracting
12 Alberta oil sands, quote "are making great strides in
13 improving the environmental impact of the extraction
14 of this oil, and will continue to do so."

15 He's right. According to Environmental
16 Canada, the governmental agency, the oil sands
17 industry has reduced its per-barrel greenhouse gas
18 emission output by 29 percent since 1990. This
19 occurred against a backdrop of greenhouse gas
20 emissions output by 29 percent since 1990. This
21 occurred against a backdrop of massive expansion of
22 oil sands production in the last two decades, during

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1 which time Canada's oil companies have managed to cut
2 their per-barrel carbon output by nearly a third.

3 New technology are in development that
4 will produce even better results. For these reasons,
5 I urge the U.S. State Department to approve the
6 Keystone XL pipeline project without any further
7 delay. Thank you very much.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 80.

10 MR. BULLOCKS: Hi. I appreciate you for
11 letting us come out and voice our opinion on you.
12 And I'm seeing there's a whole lot of different
13 opinions.

14 My name is Jimmy Bullocks, and I'm just a
15 plain citizen here in Topeka, Kansas. I support this
16 because it brings jobs to our state. This is the
17 impression I'm getting; it brings jobs, and we need
18 jobs. Can't have 7 percent unemployment, and that
19 was unacceptable last year. To me it was
20 unacceptable.

21 So I think that we should look at this as
22 a way of bringing more quality jobs to this area. I

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1 mean, not just necessarily dishwashing jobs, but
2 quality jobs.

3 And I don't have a whole lot more to say,
4 but I do support the project and I thank you for
5 giving me the opportunity to speak.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 81.

9 MS. SIMMONS: My name is Helen Simmons, I
10 represent myself and the idea that this is not good
11 for our country. It has almost never failed that
12 projects and ideas go over estimates and do not work
13 out as people are led to believe. It would place our
14 underground water reservoir in great danger. It will
15 not produce so many jobs; most of the work will be
16 done by machines and cheap labor. International
17 markets will be there to reap the profits. Big money
18 will rule again.

19 A great deal of the first stimulus money
20 went for the advancement of the windmill industry. I
21 know this is off the subject, but it relates. We
22 borrowed the money from China, and guess who made the

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1 windmills? China. Oops, forgot to put a clause in
2 there that jobs to make them will be here in the
3 United States.

4 This project before us is not in the best
5 interests of our country or the working class. The
6 Kansas City Star is one of the few papers that tells
7 it like it is. Several years back they revealed how
8 the big boys, the oil people, got together to raise
9 the price of oil. It was too cheap. They all
10 decided to tighten the supply by closing down the
11 refineries.

12 It worked. Many good refineries were
13 destroyed and scrapped. They wouldn't even sell it
14 to the people that were interested in keeping it
15 going and keeping their jobs. I hope the Big Oil
16 industry does not have their way on this project. It
17 will not help our country, and could create a
18 disaster for underground water supply.

19 By the way, our country gets most of its
20 oil from Mexico, Venezuela and Canada. I don't know
21 where Saudi Arabia comes in; maybe we buy it from
22 them and sell it to somebody else.

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1 That's it. Thank you.

2 (Appause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 Speaker No. 82.

5 MR. RIECK: Hello. Thank you for the
6 opportunity.

7 I live 25 miles from here; I'm a farmer.
8 We've had a pipeline go through our place since 1947,
9 and about 10 years later they put another pipeline,
10 30 or 50 feet from it. About every 20 years they'd
11 come in and reroute the pipeline; they don't leave
12 any rubbish, trash, they put the land back the way it
13 was.

14 America needs jobs. That man that spoke
15 just a moment ago, he knows what he's talking about.
16 In the small town of Burlingame, there's 18 seniors
17 that graduated this year, and to get jobs, seven of
18 them went into the military. Now something's wrong,
19 fellas. We've got to generate jobs in this country.
20 The man just said we had 700,000 barrels of oil a day
21 out of this pipeline; America uses 21 million barrels
22 a day. Look at the percent.

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1 But it is oil. I remember in 1973, 38
2 years ago, we had an oil embargo. People in this
3 room would have been crawling on the walls to get
4 oil, stood in lines to get oil. I farm for a living,
5 I provide food for you people to eat. And the way
6 technology is today, agriculture is based almost all
7 on oil.

8 Now, you need to decide, do you want to
9 protect the environment 100 percent or do you want to
10 eat? That's what I come here for. Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 83.

14 MR. LEDFORD: Good afternoon and thank you
15 very much for this opportunity to present a few
16 points this afternoon. I'm Charles Ledford from the
17 Department of Missouri for the American Legion,
18 Melton Post 488.

19 One question I would like to ask you, I
20 have a, from the 93rd national convention of the
21 American Legion in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 30,
22 31, September 1st of this year, a resolution. I

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1 would not like to read the whole resolution because
2 you've got the whereases and the resolve. Can I
3 present part of this and then give the rest in
4 writing to the auditor?

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Yes, you can. You can
6 submit that for the record.

7 MR. LEDFORD: Thank you. Resolution 107
8 supporting the U.S. economy and increased U.S. energy
9 security through the Canadian-American pipeline.

10 Whereas American Legion, the nation's
11 largest veterans service organization is a
12 strong advocate for programs and policies
13 that enhance our nation's economic
14 strength and national security, and
15 opportunities for veterans and all
16 citizens, and

17 Whereas the American Legion's sense of
18 obligation to the community, state and
19 nation drives honest advocacy for veterans
20 in Washington, and

21 Whereas the strength of our nation's
22 economy relates directly to the economic

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1 opportunity available to veterans of the
2 U.S. Armed Service and all other citizens,
3 and

4 Whereas a proposed pipeline will increase
5 our nation's energy security.

6 And it goes on. Many of the points presented, pros
7 and cons, I think have covered a wide selection of
8 feelings from this area.

9 However, in the interest of veterans and
10 national security -- of course if there's any
11 environmental problems in Canada, that's their
12 concern to resolve that issue. Since I'm from
13 Missouri and this is Kansas, we do have an interest
14 for veterans overall and for national security. My
15 concern would be for Canada's in obtaining the proper
16 route and insisting upon the proper EPA standards be
17 enforced and that the contractors do that.

18 I would like to point out, as has been
19 pointed out earlier, that there's a job problem not
20 only here in the State, but in our State in Missouri
21 and across the nation. Minority groups are hit the
22 hardest; they're usually double. Believe it or not,

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1 veterans are included in with the minority groups.
2 They don't have the support; a lot of the young
3 people go overseas right out of school; they get
4 involved in wars. They come back, they're
5 discharged, and the unemployment rate, I believe, is
6 headed for about a 20 percent also, 18-20 percent.

7 Unfortunately, I only had an hour and a
8 half to prepare for this and drive in from Kansas
9 City. One interest as far as defense goes; for
10 example with all the money that we owe China, which
11 is a tremendous amount, for generations to come --
12 Vicky Hartzler, who is a U.S. Representative to
13 Congress from the State of Missouri, she presented in
14 one of her speeches not too long ago, for example:
15 Our money that we owe China each day is equivalent to
16 one high-tech fighter in addition to \$34 million. So
17 if we take that, China for a period of 60 days, there
18 are 60 high-tech aircrafts that they have. They've
19 been building up on their industry, and of course we
20 want to keep as many jobs local.

21 The veterans are confronted with many
22 problems, such as PTSD, which is the post traumatic

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1 syndrome; and anger management, and they need these
2 jobs in order to help them out. So from a medical
3 point of view, it would really help the veterans.

4 I represent not only the Post, but also
5 the 6th District, Children and Youth, which is about
6 an eight county area within the southwest part of
7 Missouri, and I'm also on the Children and Youth
8 Committee for the Department of Missouri.

9 Thank you very much for your time. I
10 appreciate it very much.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 84.

14 (No response.)

15 Speaker No. 85.

16 MR. BATEMAN: Hello, I'd like to thank you
17 for your time. My name is Vince Bateman, also known
18 as Vince "The Trashman" Bateman. I work for a local
19 trash company, and I've been watching the markets
20 lately, and it's just like 9/11 all over again. Our
21 economy has been hit and it's been hit harder. We're
22 burning. We're basically on fire. And you watch the

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1 dollar and you watch oil. The dollar will collapse,
2 the dollar's headed lower. The dollar used to be up
3 in the 100 to 120 range back in the 1990s. It's now
4 at about 78, 79 and I have seen it go down to 72 here
5 just recently.

6 When you look at oil, like I say, look at
7 the dollar. And the people who really hate us flew
8 those planes into those Twin Towers. Now, we're
9 faced with a group of people that just totally hate
10 us; they can't stand us, and as the price of oil goes
11 up, they get more money to attack us. And Iran has
12 been noted to put weapons into this war we're
13 fighting over there with Afghanistan and Iraq.
14 They've been found guilty of that.

15 When situations like this occur, Iran
16 classified us as the greatest satan on earth. They
17 would like to wipe Israel off the map, and they'll
18 say it; they're not should to say it. And guess
19 who's next? Guess who they'd love to get ahold of.
20 And they're over there producing -- they're over
21 there, got a nuclear reactor right now. And if you
22 want to see contamination, look to see what radiation

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1 will do to you. You won't have to worry about
2 carbon, you won't have to worry about any of that
3 other stuff, just watch the dollar, watch the oil,
4 and who -- I'd rather see Canada get our money than
5 the people who totally hate us. Why would Canada
6 want to set off nuclear bombs against their border,
7 because the radiation will flow northward with the
8 wind flows.

9 Like I say, it's the people -- there's a
10 bunch in the Middle East that would just love to see
11 us go under; and of course China, they manipulate
12 their currency; and being a trashman, I could see
13 right on Canadian -- they don't have dumps; they just
14 go dump the trash right on the ground; it don't
15 matter. I can't be history hasn't kicked in and why
16 haven't they got the black plague yet? Why hasn't
17 the rats given them the fleas that would take them
18 out?

19 But it's here nor there; but like I say
20 is, when it comes to oil, watch the dollar. We're
21 shipping out so much of our money to foreign
22 countries. We need to keep that money here in the

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1 United States. We need to create these jobs here.

2 And like I say, I'm also a local Tea Party
3 member, so I am neither right or left for this
4 nation. I'm a registered Independent. And you can
5 bash on me all you want, I don't care. But I'm going
6 to speak out. And like I say, when you keep the money
7 here -- and as far as China, they're building their
8 military. All they need to do is float their
9 currency, put their currency on the open market, and
10 all these foreign nations that totally hate us, they
11 would love to devalue the dollar. They'd love to see
12 the dollar go a lot lower because they'd like to pull
13 the oil and the dollar apart so they can get another
14 currency in there; and if China gets their military
15 totally built up, then it won't matter. They'll be
16 qualified to be able to float there currency and
17 they'll go on the open market, and when we have a
18 currency that will give us major competition, then
19 our people will run from the dollar, that will run to
20 China's currency, and all the money that we've got
21 overseas and every nation that we belong to, and
22 watch what's going on in Europe. Better watch out

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1 when we're real close.

2 But all this money will come back to us
3 like a tidal wave. What goes out will come back. And
4 like I say, I'm a real big believer in history, and I
5 think a lot of people need to look and see what
6 happened to the Weimar Republic. Their energy got
7 exported to France under that situation.

8 So I mean, look what history has to offer,
9 and look what these people want to do to us. Like I
10 say, I'm for the pipeline, so I'd like to see it
11 built; and let's deal with the environmental
12 implications later on. Because if we get a nuclear
13 bomb over here, it won't matter. I'd like to thank
14 you.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 86.

18 MR. BOWKER: Thank you for the opportunity
19 to speak today. I'm here in favor of the Keystone XL
20 pipeline. I'm a 25-year member of Local 798 in
21 Tulsa, Oklahoma. My name is Frank Bowker, and I'm a
22 lifetime resident of Kansas and also a landowner.

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1 I know for a fact the quality that we are
2 held to in order to install these pipelines. I
3 personally know, because that's all I've done my
4 whole life. The economic boon for my home town would
5 be innumerable. They're planning a \$\$25 million
6 project at the NCRA refinery in McPherson, Kansas to
7 accept some of this crude that is already in the
8 pipeline, and the job benefit is going to be in the
9 hundreds for high-paid construction jobs and also the
10 economic assets of people staying in McPherson and
11 shopping at the stores there, buying all their food
12 and products that they need to stay.

13 After this project is done in two years,
14 there will be additional people hired at the refinery
15 to operate the new facilities to refine this crude.
16 And as far as jobs in the United States, right there
17 it's creating jobs. And I urge you to okay this
18 pipeline construction. Thank you.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 87.

22 MR. PITTS: Good afternoon. First of

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1 all --

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Good afternoon.

3 MR. PITTS: First of all, I want to thank
4 you for the opportunity to come here and speak to you
5 today. I also want to tell you how important it is
6 and how much we appreciate the opportunity to talk
7 about the pipeline.

8 I volunteered in program --

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Could you just give us your
10 name, please.

11 MR. PITTS: My name is Curtis Pitts.

12 MS. HOBGOOD: And your affiliation.

13 MR. PITTS: I'm involved in a lot of
14 organizations as a volunteer; I mostly work with high
15 risk kids, offering them job training, employment
16 training, and our leadership training here in our
17 community.

18 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

19 MR. PITTS: As a person who spends every
20 day of his life volunteering in the community as much
21 as he possibly can, in lieu of having an annual
22 salary of about \$15,000, I want to tell you how

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1 important this pipeline is to our community.

2 Every day I talk to young men and women
3 about how important it is for you to work, and talk
4 about how important it is for you to take part in the
5 raising and rearing your family. And I find it very
6 difficult to understand how anyone can talk about why
7 we shouldn't use this pipeline as a source of
8 creating jobs and opportunities in Kansas.

9 When you work with poor kids and you're
10 talking to them about working hard and making sure
11 they're the ones who provide for their family, it's
12 very difficult for me to say anything other than "We
13 really need this pipeline." They're going to need
14 people to construct it, they're going to need people
15 to maintain it. They're going to create jobs and it
16 will help these people get back on the tax rolls and
17 pay tax dollars that will help support education,
18 roads and everything else.

19 In our community, we have a high
20 unemployment rate that's far beyond seven percent.
21 And I know everybody's talking about the environment
22 and all these other things, but I'm going to talk to

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1 about an environment where there isn't very much jobs
2 and there isn't very much opportunities. But I want
3 to make sure we have jobs and employment
4 opportunities like these pipelines are going to
5 provide, because that means we can give them a way of
6 saying "I can't."

7 For whatever reason, people assume that
8 it's okay to say that 'I can't' the truth of it is,
9 employment opportunities are becoming scarcer and
10 scarcer. And if you're telling them to keep working
11 hard and study and prepare yourself, then what we're
12 doing is selling them a pipe dream. But if we take
13 advantage of this pipeline, if you give them tangible
14 with an employment opportunity, they can really help
15 take care of their family.

16 As a single parent myself, I want to say
17 these simple things: I could qualify for a lot of
18 SRS programs. I could probably even make more money
19 on unemployment. But as a man, it's very important
20 for my son to see me get up and go to work every day,
21 because one day he's going to have to do it for his
22 family. This isn't a political situation for those

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1 of us who have very little; and it's even less of a
2 political situation for those who have not.

3 We're making decisions up here and
4 assuming that this pipeline is going to benefit
5 someone else. The truth of it is, it's going to
6 benefit working people. Those who can afford to play
7 the politics of this thing, they're going to sidestep
8 it and make whatever they want. But the truth of it
9 is, we need jobs in Kansas.

10 I teach all of my kids, it's no problem
11 going out and mowing yards, washing dishes, cleaning
12 windows, whatever you've got to do to take care of
13 your family. But the truth of it is, you want to
14 help them get livable, family-surviving incomes. And
15 if you're looking at the numbers on this thing,
16 you've seeing a potential \$5 million windfall for the
17 taxpayers of Kansas. That means that my kids and
18 those kids who hang out with them in the poor
19 neighborhoods where I volunteer at, they're going to
20 have better schools and better opportunities.

21 You see, as a father and a person in this
22 community, it is essential that we take advantage of

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1 this pipeline. I hear about national security and I
2 agree, I support that 100 percent. But if you're a
3 part of the have-littles and the have-nots, we want
4 to support national security; I encourage some of my
5 guys to go to the military. But the truth of it is,
6 we're a struggling nation, and if the nation's
7 struggling, what do you think the poorest of the poor
8 are doing?

9 Our infrastructure is important to us, and
10 if the weakest link in our community is not taken
11 care of -- and I mean the children -- that's why I
12 encourage, regardless of who you are, what you are,
13 in our program we ask you first to take care of your
14 children. We will help you help yourself.

15 This pipeline opportunity will give us a
16 chance to work with families, train them up for the
17 skills that are necessary and put them back to work.
18 One thing about being a parent, and I will say this,
19 I don't know how single moms do it because as a
20 single dad with one son, it's a monster of a job.
21 But one thing I want to tell my son is this: That if
22 you work hard, there are opportunities out there for

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1 you to succeed. But the way we're going right now,
2 making everything so political, and this pipeline
3 thing is a tangible thing that we can give them, we
4 really don't understand what the four people are
5 going through.

6 And I heard these gentlemen talk about
7 agriculture, going to school in Hayes, Kansas coming
8 from Florida -- it was an amazing to me. I saw how
9 hard the farmers worked, I went out and threw hay one
10 time. And the only reason I can slide, because my
11 daddy taught me how to work hard. I've got nine
12 brothers and sisters, and if our young people don't
13 get an opportunity to work hard and make a decent
14 living, then we are going to lose them. I don't have
15 a problem with them going to the military, but we
16 should be able to provide opportunities and jobs here
17 in our community that will allow them to take care of
18 them, their families and themselves.

19 And I think this pipeline will give us
20 that opportunity. Everybody's not going to be a
21 doctor or a lawyer; those are all fine fields. Not
22 everybody's going to be an educator; that's also a

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1 fine field. But we do have an opportunity to create
2 living wage jobs with this pipeline. And if we don't
3 take advantage of this opportunity here in the State
4 of Kansas I think we're missing the point: People
5 aren't working, this isn't politics -- people need
6 jobs. Thank you very much.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 Speaker No. 88.

10 MS. BURKS: My name is Adra Burks, I'm

11 from Lawrence, Kansas. I'm here on my own behalf.

12 By vocation I am an attorney. I want to talk about
13 wishes and actuality.

14 I have read the Keystone people permit.

15 That gives them the right to cross the Canadian-U.S.

16 border. That pipeline does not limit where those tar

17 sands are used. It merely allows them to go across.

18 That does not require that TransCanada follow its

19 conservation and mitigation and reclamation plan, per
20 se.

21 It does not say that a certain percentage

22 of that, the tar sands that are going to Cushing,

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1 Oklahoma, and that's where it does say they're going,
2 will be used for crude oil within the United States.
3 There is no such restriction on that permit.

4 I want to talk about what happened in Clay
5 County, Kansas when the pipeline was put in, because
6 it has gone through Clay County, and I want to talk
7 about that in terms of the conservation and
8 mitigation and reclamation plan, revision No. 4, that
9 was published in April of 2009.

10 First, a year passed after the
11 installation of the pipeline. The plan says that
12 there will be cover crop. There is no cover crop,
13 there was no hay, there was nothing; the land was
14 allowed to just lay fallow for over a year. When
15 land lays fallow, it blows. Part of that land was in
16 stream areas, so there was erosion and silt that came
17 from that. Likewise, that reclamation plan requires
18 that terraces be maintained. However, when they went
19 through, they clipped off the terraces right to the
20 boundaries of the easement. So there's no way to
21 connect terraces onto existing terraces; particularly
22 terraces that have begun to erode away with no cover

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1 on the sides. So TransCanada needs to extend their
2 easements, because they didn't use their easement
3 area to maintain terraces.

4 They went through virgin prairie. We have
5 so little virgin prairie in this country, that they
6 went through virgin prairie, they left silt go into
7 ponds and accumulate.

8 The pipeline was put in without taking
9 steps to deal with compaction. Compaction occurs if
10 you have a lot of water, rain that's occurring; it
11 causes the soil to become more compacted, the more
12 the soil becomes more compacted, the less you're
13 going to have with farm production. It becomes
14 harder and harder.

15 The topsoil got scraped off and then
16 pushed onto the subsoil. No effort was done to
17 measure off the topsoil and protect the topsoil -- it
18 just all got commingled. The quantity then of
19 topsoil that got put back is not necessarily the same
20 quantity that got pushed off.

21 We heard that this is going to generate
22 taxes. In fact, although it's not the State

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1 Department's fault, you should be aware that the
2 Kansas Legislature, for a ten year period, has
3 exempted the Keystone pipeline from payment of
4 personal and real property taxes. In Clay County
5 alone, that's over \$440,000 of lost revenue a year.

6 We also haven't talked about what the
7 reclamation does when disaster strikes. There was no
8 effort to look, in anything I've read, at the
9 earthquake situation. We have three faults in
10 Kansas, Kansas is not known as an earthquake area,
11 but we have the Humboldt Fault, the Nemaha Ridge
12 Fault, and the Abilene Anticline Fault. Three faults
13 within a two county area, some within a one county
14 area of that pipeline.

15 That pipeline was not put in on sand; it's
16 on rock; there's no way that I can see to deal with
17 shifts in ground. Likewise, we haven't addressed
18 sinkholes. We have sinkhole issues already with
19 general pipelines. This is a huge pipeline in terms
20 of depth; we've got the high pressure, we've got the
21 heat from it, and we haven't addressed what's going
22 to happen with sinkholes and possible disaster with

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1 sinkholes.

2 Finally -- I'm through. Thank you.

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 89.

6 And before you start, let me just say
7 again that if you have your comments in writing and
8 you've run out of time, please feel free to submit
9 them to us. They will be considered part of the
10 public record. Thank you.

11 MS. MacVEY: My name is Kendall MacVey,
12 and I'm here with the National Wildlife Federation.

13 I'm speaking in opposition to the proposed
14 system. I speak both as an environmentalist,
15 conservationist and as a girl who grew up in
16 Kansas. A few points I wanted to make.

17 First, everybody, a lot of people here say
18 they care about jobs. Unfortunately, the pipeline
19 already exists in the State of Kansas, and there's no
20 plans to do any reroute through -- so since the
21 pipeline already exists, job creation in the state
22 won't actually go into fact or happen. Also on a

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1 national level, we know that TransCanada has greatly
2 exaggerated jobs creation for the pipeline. They
3 said the pipeline would create tens of thousands of
4 jobs; well, actual U.S. estimates say it's possible
5 that fewer than 200 local jobs from each site will
6 actually be in effect.

7 So tar sands also deepens our addiction to
8 dirty, costly fossil fuels; and by sending the tar
9 sands from Canada down to the biggest, largest export
10 hub in the United States which is the Texas Gulf
11 Coast, it's actually going to increase the price of
12 gas and the price of oil for our Midwesterners,
13 making it more difficult for small business owners,
14 people that work in agriculture; farmers, along with
15 people like myself.

16 We know that dirty fuels like tar sands
17 speed up global warming, which will cause more water
18 shortages, more expensive and deadly extreme weather
19 events, more coastal flooding, and many other
20 problems that will threaten the U.S. national
21 security. America has better energy choices than
22 dirty tar sands or risky deep water oil drilling. So

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1 I encourage the State Department to agree with us on
2 that and move away from risky, dirty fuels and pursue
3 clean, safe and renewable alternatives.

4 We know that the pipeline will put local
5 property owners, wildlife and the environment at
6 risk. Tar sands are worse than other fuels when
7 they spill, and the risks of long term damage of tar
8 sands spills has never been studied. We know that
9 the pipeline that exists now has already had 12
10 spills since it started pumping oil back in June 2010
11 the last one occurring in May of this year, in
12 Kansas. So we know that they're already proving
13 unsafe, showing safety anomalies and spills in our
14 area; and we also know that communities downstream of
15 tar sands development are seeing a spike in rare
16 cancers and other serious health conditions like
17 heart and lung disease.

18 Oil from tar sands produces three times as
19 many greenhouse gas emissions as conventional oil.
20 Instead of TransCanada's dirty tar sands oil, we
21 should aggressively invest in clean, renewable energy
22 solutions, like wind and solar power that create U.S.

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1 jobs, U.S. technology for U.S. workers that are not
2 temporary like the jobs that will be created for the
3 pipeline. We also know that we've had a lot of
4 people talking about the aquifer that provides more
5 than 2 million people with safe drinking water, and
6 also 20 percent of the irrigation water for our
7 country.

8 So I urge you to think about what this
9 water means for the millions of people in the Midwest
10 that work on farms and also people that use it as a
11 source of drinking water, like myself. And we
12 already know that since the pipeline that already
13 exists has potential for spilling because it already
14 has spilled once already this year. And we need to
15 think about the long term effects of a contamination
16 of something like the Ogallala Aquifer.

17 Also, one more point I wanted to make.

18 If the Keystone XL locks into a future
19 where we are dependent on one of the dirtiest and
20 costliest fuels in the world, it's time we reinvest
21 in real solutions. Cleaner fuels like biofuels and
22 more efficient vehicles and new generation electric

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1 vehicles are all viable and readily available
2 alternatives to dirty tar sands oils, making a clean
3 energy future a tremendous economic opportunity for
4 all Americans rather than a continuation for the
5 record profits for Big Oil by Big Oil.

6 We know that it's going to increase the
7 oil prices and this will add two to four billion to
8 the U.S. fuel bill, providing multinational oil
9 companies with the profits and not Americans.

10 And I heard several people say that they
11 were worried that the tar sands would then go over to
12 countries like China, but we know for a fact that the
13 infrastructure both in Canada and obviously over
14 there is not sustainable for that kind of project; so
15 we're basically being used as the middle man to open
16 up the markets for this international dirty fuel
17 economy that we need to stay away from.

18 And with that, I thank the State
19 Department for allowing me to come and submit
20 testimony; and I appreciate you taking the time to
21 listen to what I had to say.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 90.

3 MR. DAVID: Hi, thanks for coming here to
4 listen to all our concerns. My name is Cole Davis,
5 I'm here as a private citizen.

6 One of the main reasons that I wanted to
7 come here today and speak my mind was, no offense to
8 TransCanada, the individual company, but most major
9 trans-national corporations do not have the
10 absolutely best record in terms of being completely
11 honest; in terms of their environmental effects, oil
12 companies have sometimes been the absolute worst;
13 often downplaying the number of spills they have or
14 the limited effect their spills could or will have on
15 surrounding environment.

16 Just today I heard people talk about how
17 absolutely safe and wonderful TransCanada is and how
18 it is going to be the safest people ever built;
19 spotless -- nearly perfect. In 2009, according to
20 TransCanada's own website, they had 25 oil spills.
21 This was a significant increase from 2005, 6, 7 and
22 8.

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1 Just recently in North Dakota, according
2 to Forbes Magazine, there was a 500 barrel spill with
3 the TransCanada people. So if the statement, they
4 have 60 years of a spotless record, comes up again,
5 I would like to reiterate that spotless is not really
6 the right word to use for this people. It's very
7 obvious that spills have occurred, and most likely
8 with more construction, and a bigger pipeline and
9 more crude oil, there will be more spills in the
10 future; and to ignore the environmental effects of
11 that is dangerous and foolish.

12 A lot of people have talked about
13 international implications, about how absolutely
14 important this pipeline is compared to the world
15 economy and national security and our national job
16 and energy crisis; and I would like to -- perspective
17 for everyone, which is to say that the world goes
18 through billions and billions and billions of barrels
19 of oil. And the idea that potentially 800,000
20 barrels of oil is not going to completely solve our
21 energy crisis somehow; especially when there is no
22 contract in place, as far as I am aware, that all of

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1 the oil produced will be sold strictly in the United
2 States.

3 With that in mind, it's difficult for me
4 to really comprehend how they can say this is a
5 solution, or our nation's problems if there's no
6 guarantee that it's a solution. With that said,
7 generally when you open up oil to international
8 markets, it goes where there's demand, and the demand
9 in the United States is currently slow because we are
10 in recession. However, China and India with their
11 massively growing economies are gobbling up way, way
12 more. The likelihood is that it will be sold on the
13 international market and end up in those areas is
14 much higher than I think some people have presented.

15 The other thing I wanted to point out is I
16 read a report by Dr. John Stansbury from the
17 University of Nebraska; and what his study
18 essentially said was, the environmental impacts
19 presented by TransCanada are significantly downplayed
20 to the reality of the situation. Whereas he said for
21 the lifetime of the pipeline was something like 11
22 spills. The reality would be more like 91. And the

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1 significant environmental impact, worst case scenario
2 of that, would be the, occluding in both several
3 aquifers and main river sources both in Nebraska,
4 Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. And this would affect
5 not just agricultural economic policy or economic
6 realities, but also a health hazard on a massive
7 scale.

8 And I think that without acknowledging
9 that and taking that into account, could be
10 significantly dangerous for this project.

11 The last thing I would put out of his -- I
12 guess I don't understand how so many people can state
13 that this one project automatically makes us safer
14 from the terrorism from Iran, from China, because it
15 doesn't. The reality of the situation is this may
16 be a positive impact for local economies, it may have
17 thousands of jobs created temporarily and some for 20
18 years. But if the environmental risk is tremendously
19 larger than that, then there's no reason that this
20 project should go forward. Thank you.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 (Applause)

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 91.

2 MR. GACHES: My name is Ron Gaches, I am a
3 third generation Kansan, a small business person, a
4 resident of Lawrence, Kansas with a family. I also
5 happen to be a consultant for TransCanada and have
6 worked for them the last couple of years.

7 I had not planned to speak, which is why
8 I'm here towards the end of the line. But it has
9 been hugely frustrating to hear the attacks on the
10 Keystone XL project that are incomplete and
11 inaccurate, and sometimes just downright false. And
12 I think some of them warrant some response.

13 We heard the attack that the crude oil
14 won't serve Americans because it's going to be
15 exported outside of the United States. We currently
16 import about half of our crude oil that we consume in
17 the United States. When did we become a crude oil
18 exporter? Will importing 800,000 barrels of crude
19 oil from Canada a day suddenly cause us to become an
20 exporter of crude oil? I don't think so.

21 If this crude oil were to go to the China
22 market, why not build just a short pipeline from the

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1 fields where it's produced to the Western ports of
2 Canada and put it on a boat and take it to China? If
3 the Chinese wanted to buy this crude oil from
4 Houston, they're going to have to wait for this
5 pipeline to be built for one thing; but then they're
6 going to have to ship that crude oil from Houston
7 through the Panama Canal, and then to China, a much,
8 much longer and more expensive route.

9 To suggest that this crude oil is going to
10 be piped to Houston and then be sent to China is
11 completely specious argument without any finding of
12 fact, and I don't believe anyone has ever suggested
13 that the Chinese have any contracts to purchase U.S.
14 originating crude from the Houston market and ship it
15 home.

16 It's been repeatedly, the comment has been
17 made repeatedly that this pipeline had 12 leaks in
18 its first year. There have been 12 leaks from the
19 system, none of them have actually occurred from the
20 pipeline per se; but there have been 12 leaks all
21 associated with pump stations. Almost every one of
22 the pump stations, the leak was found to be in a

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1 particular valve. Apparently -- this is my personal
2 opinion -- but apparently there's been some bad
3 engineering performed by whomever it was designed the
4 pump stations. Those valves have all been replaced.
5 Since they have been replaced, there have been no
6 leaks.

7 We had a leak in Kansas; I've seen that
8 property. We had less than ten barrels of oil leak
9 from the valve, and it basically was just a fine mist
10 sprayed onto the grass around the pump station. None
11 of it escaped into the ground water or the surface
12 water; and in fact none of the oil from any of the 12
13 leaks reached any water resources.

14 We heard that the oil sands are a more
15 volatile product than has ever been piped into the
16 United States before. Well, the Keystone I pipeline
17 system is piping this into the United States right
18 now; it's the very same crude oil that would be piped
19 by Keystone XL. So this product is already here.
20 Our refineries are handling it just fine. There are
21 other pipelines that bring this product into the
22 United States from Canada, and there are very, very

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1 similar crude oils that are produced in the United
2 States that are domestic products. I don't see that
3 this product poses any new risk.

4 We've heard that the pipeline will pose an
5 unacceptable hazard to the Ogallala Aquifer. Well,
6 this is the scariest allegation of them all, but also
7 the one that's probably with the least
8 substantiation. We have thousands of miles of
9 pipeline running over the Ogallala Aquifer in Kansas
10 and in Nebraska right now, and there are hundreds of
11 oil wells and natural gas wells that are punched
12 through the Ogallala today.

13 Do we deal with the occasional spill?
14 Yes, we do, but I can't tell you the last time I've
15 even heard of one. This people is designed to the
16 highest standards. There are 52 additional
17 requirements above and beyond the standards that
18 existed prior to this proposal that have been agreed
19 to by TransCanada. It will be the safest way to move
20 crude oil across the United States when it's built.

21 Let me complete my comments by saying that
22 our national energy security will be improved by

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1 building this pipeline, and I support that effort.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

5 Speaker No. 92.

6 MR. HENDERSON: Greetings, good afternoon,

7 Thank you for being here. My name is Chuck

8 Henderson, I'm from Manhattan, Kansas, representing

9 myself, and I'm also an active member of the Flint

10 Hills Tea Party from the Manhattan area.

11 I'd like to speak in support of the

12 pipeline project. I think that especially in light

13 of the fact that the construction is already done,

14 this structure exists in the State of Kansas now, but

15 to not use it is to waste it. It's to waste it as a

16 resource of infrastructure, entirely aside from the

17 waste of the resources that they're wanting to send

18 through. The volume of the oil coming through will

19 also represent some hundreds of tanker trucks that

20 won't have to be taking up space and time and burning

21 fuel on our interstate highways to transport a

22 similar amount of the crude oil that needs to get to

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1 the refineries, with declining shipments coming from
2 Venezuela and other ports to the south of the Gulf;
3 having this new source coming in will help utilize
4 existing refineries which are a dwindling resource in
5 this country in and of themselves. And the tax
6 revenues.

7 Houston and Baytown are also a hub coming
8 back the other direction for the outbound pipelines
9 of the refined products. Which is why we take it
10 there to get it refined. The refineries already
11 exist, they need the incoming product to run their
12 facilities at their best capacity; and then as soon
13 as those products are created, they can be most
14 efficiently sent back out into the market. There has
15 been far too much regulation and downplay on the
16 entire industry for far too long.

17 We're finding people still here today that
18 are touting global warming as a reason to not do
19 this; and that fallacy has been discounted and
20 discredited for some time now. That was a fraud that
21 had been perpetrated by those who have their own
22 interests at heart, and we should not allow those

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1 arguments to block this kind of forward progress.

2 We have union members here today, and as
3 frequently a my crowd finds ourselves in apposition
4 to the union folks, I'm happy to discover that we
5 have a topic now upon which we can find common ground
6 and agreement.

7 Please, I urge you all to allow this
8 project to go forward. It will be to many, many
9 people's benefit directly, indirectly, and for a
10 legacy into the future. Thank you so much.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

13 Speaker No. 93.

14 MR. TAWNEY: First of all, I'd like to
15 thank you for the opportunity to hear people today.
16 My name is Christine Tawney, I'm from Manhattan,
17 Kansas. I'm also a member of the Flint Hills Tea
18 Party. And most of all, I am also a landowner, have
19 oil wells on my property; I also have a natural gas
20 line that runs through one piece of our property. I
21 have grown up around these, and never have we ever
22 experienced any type of potholes, sink holes,

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1 improper management of the oil. In fact, if you want
2 to do environmental studies, the animals and birds
3 and everything, enjoy the area.

4 Most of all, this is about jobs. This is
5 jobs for Kansas. This is jobs for America, and as
6 far as the security, the natural security that comes
7 in to protect our country and to give our value here
8 in Kansas and in the United States, our dollars will
9 remain here on our ground instead of sending dollars
10 overseas to people that are going to use them against
11 us at some point in time.

12 Very definitely this job -- are valuable
13 to our lives. and to our children's lives, and to get
14 tax dollars and to keep people working, and getting
15 them away from being dependent upon the government
16 for just existence. They need to have pride in
17 themselves and in their own self-responsibility.

18 I've looked over -- I have a friend that
19 asked me how safe this was. So I went in and I did
20 some research. Anyway, Keystone has to where they
21 can shut down a leak within 12 minutes, if there is a
22 leak. That will be shut down and will protect any of

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1 the ground around it. The amount of monitoring that
2 they will be doing on this pipeline will be nonstop;
3 it will be 24/7, 365 days a year. They're going to
4 be monitoring this probably better than most of the
5 other things that go on in our country.

6 We need this for the jobs, again, and we
7 need to bring the money to American. We do not need
8 to give the money away to the foreign countries.
9 Let's bring it home. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 Speaker No. 94.

13 MR. ELLIOTT: Good afternoon, my name is
14 Sean Elliott, and I'm the Vice President of KDU Young
15 Democrats.

16 I'd like to begin by saying that, as he
17 pointed out in his speech a few minutes ago, that the
18 Laborers seem to be on the same side as Americans for
19 Prosperity; and that's a bit odd to me. So I'd like
20 that to be written down.

21 But as an issue of national security, I
22 think it should be analyzed from the perspective of

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1 disaster management, both at the border point and
2 then in Kansas itself.

3 As was stated earlier, the permits provide
4 no guarantee of jurisdictional authority. Where
5 authority will come from during disaster and also
6 sources of funding. This can create a boondoggle for
7 the national border. Without jurisdiction or
8 authority, it is likely that no one will take
9 authority when a disaster happens. We've seen this
10 with environmental disasters around the globe.
11 Consistently corporations are asked to fill in for
12 emergency services; they do this by providing funds
13 after the fact to those affected by the disaster.
14 This creates authoritative weakness and locks the
15 United States in litigation, which weakens our
16 national security because it makes us appear weaker
17 and without control over our border points.

18 Then as an issue of disaster management in
19 Kansas, there have been issues over the last decade
20 on jurisdiction of the Ogallala Aquifer and also
21 Kansas state government is locked in re-crafting
22 water agreements as we speak. If disaster occurs in

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1 the pipeline, responsibility will lie with the State
2 of Kansas. If it occurs in the aquifer, this will
3 adversely affect farmers, but it will also adversely
4 affect the State, which is under-prepared, under-
5 funded, and undermined by previous agreements on the
6 aquifer.

7 I would say that as somebody who is
8 studying disaster management, the only way I would be
9 in support of this is because it provides potential
10 employment for myself. So thank you.

11 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. HOBGOOD: Is there anyone else in the
14 room who would like to speak?

15 No. 95. Thank you.

16 And can you state your name and
17 affiliation.

18 MR. PENN: My name is David Penn, and I am
19 with Laborers International Union.

20 I've listened closely to both sides of
21 this issue, and I've listened without contempt or
22 prejudice. I'm here to support the completion of the

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1 Keystone pipeline. But also, I also want to make
2 sure that we have a good environment. I know that
3 our International -- and I'm currently working on
4 projects right now with Sierra Club's issues with bad
5 contractors.

6 They have been good partners, and I'm sure
7 they'll be good partners in the future. We want
8 clean air, we want clean water. Terms were used like
9 -- we're not addicted to oil. We're addicted to good
10 jobs. We're addicted to a higher standard of living.

11 They said that we'll cause a climate
12 crisis. Right now there's not a greater crisis than
13 our high rate of unemployment.

14 I think it would be absolutely immoral --
15 one of their terms -- if we didn't do something to
16 help American workers stop this foreclosure of their
17 homes, of the bankruptcies, small businesses and so
18 forth.

19 So I do rise today to be a partner with
20 environmental groups that support this program.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. HOBGOOD: Do we have Speaker No. 96?

3 What I'd like to do now, because I think
4 our transcriber would love to have another break --
5 and so because we don't have any other speakers, and
6 we will be here until 8 o'clock p.m., that's what the
7 Federal Register notice said; some of your
8 organizations may have indicated that we would be
9 here until 8 p.m., and so I'd like to assure everyone
10 in this room that we will be present, particularly if
11 there are other individuals who've signed in.

12 But for now, I would like to take a break,
13 perhaps a ten or fifteen minute break. I also want
14 to make a couple of remarks, because when we break I
15 may lose some of you. I just want to say how
16 thankful we are; you've been very gracious to us, you
17 have been very gracious to each other. We thank you.

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19 We also want to convey that the State
20 Department has made no decision. If you have not
21 spoken and you decide that you want to convey your
22 thoughts, your views to the State Department, you

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1 have until midnight of October 9th to do so. We
2 circulated a document at the table where there's
3 information indicating where you can submit your
4 comments. So feel free to do so if you have not
5 spoken here today.

6 I see a gentleman waving his hand. Did
7 you want to say something?

8 VOICE: I have -- this is my comment.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Yes.

10 And can you just state your name and
11 number again for the transcriber? I'd appreciate it.

12 MR. PENN: I believe it was number 95.
13 David Penn.

14 I heard comments that there would not be
15 job opportunities for the citizens of Kansas. That
16 is not true. A pipeline of this magnitude requires
17 skilled workers, the trained workers who understand
18 the hazards, and can correct the hazards that's
19 environmental or whatever.

20 The workers of Kansas along with workers
21 in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas will be made up of crews
22 from all the states. Not one state and one local has

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1 enough workers to complete this project without
2 relying on workers from other states. I just want to
3 have that in the record.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. HOBGOOD: Again, if we can take a
6 break of about ten minutes.

7 (Recess.)

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thanks, everyone for your
9 patience. We're getting ready to resume the public
10 meeting.

11 May I call on Speaker No. 96.

12 And if you can state your name and
13 affiliation.

14 MR. THOMAS: I'm Tyrone Thomas, I am
15 unaffiliated.

16 If we had to be dependent on foreign oil,
17 at least let us get it from a country that still
18 likes us.

19 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

20 Speaker No. 97.

21 If you can state your name and
22 affiliation.

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1 MR. PITTS: My name is Austen Pitts, I
2 have no affiliation.

3 Good afternoon. Thank you for holding
4 this hearing today and inviting people to share their
5 opinions on the Keystone pipeline. I'd like to share
6 my thoughts about why I think that this project
7 should be approved.

8 Some people I know believe that the
9 environment will be hurt through the pipeline's
10 construction and use. I want to share my opinion on
11 why that isn't true and why we need to have this
12 pipeline.

13 People say that this pipeline will hurt
14 the environment, but one pipeline moves as many
15 barrels of oil as 750 tanker trucks, which do you
16 think hurts the environment more?

17 The State Department has already said that
18 the pipeline will not cause any significant impacts
19 to the environment. I will tell you what significant
20 impact it will have; it will create jobs, it will
21 help 7 percent of the people in our state who don't
22 have jobs right now. People who want to go to work

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1 every day but don't have a job to go to; this
2 pipeline is going to create new construction jobs and
3 manufacturing jobs. That is a significant impact
4 that it will have on our state.

5 I support this project because it's going
6 to bring new jobs to Kansas. I urge you to approve
7 the pipeline.

8 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

9 (Applause)

10 MS. HOBGOOD: Speaker No. 98.

11 If you can state your name and
12 affiliation.

13 MR. TOWNER: Hello, my name is Jay Towner,
14 and I'm for the pipeline construction.

15 Thank you for allowing me the time to
16 voice my opinion on the Keystone pipeline project.
17 I've been hearing a lot about the people who oppose
18 this pipeline, and that they think it would damage
19 the environment. I'm here to support the project. I
20 saw the State Department already said that there
21 would be no significant impact to the environment if
22 this pipeline were constructed.

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1 I do believe that this pipeline project
2 offers good opportunities for the state, that will
3 intersect between Canada and the Gulf Coast.
4 Construction and manufacturing jobs that it will
5 create are needed badly here in Kansas. There are
6 some areas of our state which are having a very hard
7 time during this recession. Many of those areas are
8 rural and many of them will be directly impacted by
9 this pipeline.

10 Beyond this, the areas that will be
11 directly affected, all of us will be better off for
12 the amount of investment that this pipeline will
13 create here in Kansas. We will all benefit from the
14 thousands of new quality manufacturing and
15 construction jobs; we will all benefit from the \$5
16 million in new government revenue that the pipeline
17 is expected to create. Our communities will be
18 better, our schools will be better, our neighbor's
19 job prospects will be better as a result of your
20 approval of this pipeline.

21 I ask that you approve the Keystone
22 pipeline project. Thank you.

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1 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. HOBGOOD: Is there anyone else in the
4 room who wishes to speak?

5 (No response.)

6 If not, as I stated previously, we will be
7 here to listen to your comments until 8 o'clock p.m.

8 If there are no other speakers, if we can
9 suspend the public meeting for about ten minutes,
10 there may be other speakers coming. Thank you.

11 (Recess.)

12 MS. HOBGOOD: The public meeting will
13 resume with Speaker No. 99.

14 If you can come up, state your name and
15 your affiliation.

16 MR. GILLILAND: Name is William Gilliland,
17 I'm a professional geologist, and I'm sorry it was so
18 late; I had to go teach my class at Washburn.
19 Primarily I'm retired, except.

20 Earlier when -- just before I had to
21 leave, you had a petroleum geologist from Wichita
22 speak about the subject, and one of his comments was

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1 he hadn't heard anyone speaking that was much of an
2 expert in the Ogallala Aquifer.

3 I am retired from the State of Kansas, and
4 one of my last duties to the State of Kansas was
5 supervising the processing of all applications for
6 using water in the State of Kansas, for the
7 Department of Agriculture and the Division of Water
8 Resources. And therefore I have a fair background
9 in, twenty years working in water appropriations in
10 the State, of the Ogallala Aquifer.

11 Many of the things that I heard earlier in
12 the hearing, people's concerns about the pollution to
13 the Ogallala Aquifer were extreme and very unlikely.
14 The petroleum being, section of the pipeline will be
15 kept hot because it is a pretty high viscosity, and
16 if a leak did occur, probably it would start cooling
17 immediately upon being disbursed in the environment.
18 And therefore would be less viscous and less likely
19 to reach down to the ground water in the Ogallala
20 Aquifer, most of it being filtered out in the first
21 few feet, in the sands and the silts.

22 For the most part, I support the idea of

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1 the pipeline; some of my staff worked on permitting
2 and water use for construction of the pipeline across
3 Kansas before retiring. I do feel that the -- there
4 would have been rather lax in removing the obligation
5 of one of the owners and thus a pipeline, any
6 problems that might occur. Personally I feel that
7 both the senior officials in the company and board of
8 directors people should be held accountable, and
9 directed the fines toward them, that the companies
10 would be much more diligent in pursuing the
11 possibility of accidents and equipment failure.

12 Of course I have been considered a rascal
13 at times, I suggested using surplus nukes to take
14 care of repeated water use offenders in the State of
15 Kansas. The chief never agreed with me. But I feel
16 that it's very important to try to protect all our
17 resources. I think they have been very diligent in
18 covering; and I feel that on both sides, the
19 questions some people have been exaggerated, both on
20 the policy and the amount of money and number of jobs
21 that will be brought into the area; and on the other
22 side, the extreme negative impacts that might occur.

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1 And for periods I participated in the
2 State of Kansas, I don't like to talk about a swath
3 about 25 percent wide out of the center of the
4 testimonies, and that probably covered more
5 accurately on both sides of the question. Thank you
6 for the opportunity.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

8 Speaker No. 100.

9 If you can state your name and
10 affiliation.

11 MR. ADE: My name is David Ade, I'm
12 basically just a citizen.

13 MS. HOBGOOD: That's fine.

14 MR. ADE: I object to it; I think that's -
15 - only way to transport something that, if something
16 did go wrong could cause serious environmental
17 impact. That's basically all I can say; I really
18 don't think we object to it, just on the
19 environmental reasons.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you.

22 Are there any more speakers?

1

2

1

(No response.)

2

If not, we will suspend the meeting again;

3

we will be here until 8 o'clock. And so if you

4

haven't spoken and you change your mind, we're happy

5

to hear from you.

6

(Recess.)

7

MS. HOBGOOD: I just wanted to make an

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announcement, that it's several minutes after 8

9

o'clock. The public meeting is now closed.

10

(Whereupon, at 8:03 p.m., the meeting

11

adjourned.)

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